Sabaya had Martin Burnham killed, says bandit

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 3

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **Banks agree to convert NSC debt into equity** BUSINESS / B1
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

No sexy stars, please

By Blanche S. Rivera

BAKIT DI PWEDE? MGA MODEL DIN NAMAN KAMI!

THE SPIRIT is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Citing an undesirable image that could be created, the Archdiocese of Manila yesterday crossed out sexy

NO/A20

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
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Barrio fiesta wedding for Mikey, Angela

THE STAGE is set for today's altar date of President Macapagal's eldest son Mikey and Angela Montenegro at the St. Augustine Church in Lubao, Pampanga.
VAL HANDUMON

700 guests to attend Lubao church rites

By Carlito Pablo, *in Manila*
and Tonette Orejas, *PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ALL roads lead to Lubao, the only town in the country to raise two Presidents, this morning when Juan Miguel Arroyo—the grandson of the late Diosdado Macapagal and the eldest son of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo—weds second cousin Maria Angela Montenegro.

The roads, as well as bridges and even drainage canals, were "improved" in time for the Pampanga wedding, which includes former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos on the list of sponsors.

But mindful of the excesses the last time a President's child was married outside Metro Manila, Malacañang issued a defensive statement.

"The improvements are simple and the budget modest compared to the wedding of then presidential daughter Irene R. Marcos and a scion of a prominent family, Greggy Araneta, also in a historic setting—the old Spanish church of Sarrat in Ilocos Norte, hometown of the late President Ferdinand Marcos," the statement read.

Arroyo, the 33-year-old vice governor of Pampanga, and Montenegro will be married at the 430-year-old St. Augustine Church, where the late President

BARRIO/A20

US 'eye in sky' aided RP troops in Zambo chase

By Carlito Pablo, *in Manila*
and Julie S. Alipala, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

AN AMERICAN spy plane monitoring sea traffic off the Zamboanga peninsula provided real-time intelligence that helped intercept Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya and six of his men, a military officer privy to details of the operation disclosed yesterday.

"There was an 'eye in the sky,'" the officer said on condition of anonymity. "The Americans know certain details and that is why they are also convinced that we were able to finally get Sabaya."

The officer said the "technical support" provided by the United States "confirmed" the intelligence gathered by the Marines that Sabaya was going to attempt a breakout by sea. On Saturday, Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza said "thermal tracking" by a US drone helped the Armed Forces in the June 21 encounter.

Pressed for more detail, the officer merely said: "They (Abu Sayyaf members) were monitored from above."

The trail that eventually led to Friday's encounter with Sabaya began on Thursday, when Capt. Gieram Aragones of Marine intelligence received a report from an agent confirming that Sabaya and his men were "resting" in the house of a barangay official in Mantibog Point in Sibuco town, and that a pumpboat was being readied for their sea trip to Sulu.

Aragones immediately coordinated with Lt. Col. Ariel Querubin and Col. Juancho Sabban, who relayed the information to the

US/A19

Priests keep camp for waste recycling

By Tony S. Bergonia
Assistant National Editor

SILANG, Cavite—On a 1.2-hectare property here, where leaves rustling in the wind make soothing music with the chirping of birds, everything returns to the soil.

Almost everything, except for about two dozen plastic toothpaste tubes, broken pieces of plastic egg crates, pairs of leather and rubber slippers, several empty paint cans, used toothbrushes, empty soda cans, empty tin cans of sardines and corned beef, and empty Styrofoam packs from popular food store chains.

At the car park made of gravel that serves as entry point to the Center for Ecozoic Living and Learning (CELL), a machine that converts coconut husks into coir and fiber gives a glimpse of what goes into the soil.

"You just throw that into the ground and it makes new soil," said Fr. Frank Carey, an Australian priest of the Columban order that runs the CELL camp, pointing to the brownish, moist materials that the machine churns out.

"You just turn it over every two days. It's a bit labor extensive," he said.

At one of the structures in the camp, called Brendan Hall, sits a solar panel that generates up to 75 watts of electricity, just enough to light up several bulbs in the hall that is used for conferences and lectures.

PRIESTS/A19

Sibuco clash boosts GMA rating

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

IF INDEED Abu Sabaya is dead, his elimination represents a success in the military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf that the Macapagal administration sorely needs to bolster its sagging public opinion rating.

It was by no means a military victory that annihilated the Abu Sayyaf, any more than the capture of the 45 camps of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front during then President Joseph Estrada's "all-out war" on the MILF was a military victory.

Although the Abu Sayyaf is splintered and clearly on the run, it remains a threat even after the elimination of Abu Sabaya.

The capture of the MILF camps in the summer of 2001 did not wipe out the MILF. It drove the rebels to scatter their forces away from the camps, but the MILF's 10,000-strong guerrilla army has remained largely intact.

Nonetheless, the killing of Abu Sabaya

SIBUCO/A19

Local joint surgery urged for arthritis

By Andrea Trinidad-Echavez
Contributor

MARIA Mercedez, 68, quit her job as assistant university dean in Pangasinan when the pain in her hips became unbearable.

Like her, Paciencia Romualdo, 78, never imagined anything more agonizing than the constant pain in the hips.

For over a decade, Romualdo or Lola Pacing, had been unable to walk. She was in her early 60s when a doctor diagnosed her as having osteoarthritis. Through the years, her condition worsened.

Lola Maria and Lola Pacing are just two of some 1 million Filipinos suffering from different forms of arthritis.

Like most people afflicted with the disease, the two elderly women chose to suffer in silence, accepting *rayuma* as "part of getting old."

Thanks to advances in medical science, the two grandmothers have found hope through total joint replacement, a surgical procedure to replace damaged joints with implants.

Unknown to many, the procedure has long been performed in the country.

"Contrary to common belief,

LOCAL/A6

NAVY men continue their search for the body of Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya, who was reported killed off Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte, three days ago.
DENNIS SABANGAN

Sabaya behind Martin slay, says bandit

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Abu Sabaya ordered his men to shoot dead American hostage Martin Burnham if soldiers got too close, a captured Abu Sayyaf bandit was quoted on Sunday as saying.

Toto Aluk, also known as "Ayub," was shown on videotape taken by the military saying that Sabaya, the Abu Sayyaf spokesperson who was believed killed in a gun battle on Friday, issued the order to kill Martin Burnham.

The US missionary, who was seized at Palawan's Dos Palmas Resort and held hostage for about a year, was killed in a military rescue operation in Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte, on June 7.

The military questioned Aluk and two of Abu Sabaya's followers after capturing them in the clash off Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte, that supposedly resulted in Abu Sabaya's death.

The military yesterday released a videotape of Aluk being interrogated.

On the videotape, Aluk said Sabaya ordered another Abu Sayyaf bandit, Abu Lukman, to kill Burnham if soldiers

SABAYA/A11

SIMULA NA NG PATONG-PATONG NA KASO NITO!

Drug charges filed vs Ecleo today

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—At least 50 policemen will be deployed to secure cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. today when he is brought to the Cebu City Prosecutor's Office for the filing of possession of illegal drugs charges against him.

Cebu City police were set to file the charges after laboratory tests showed that three packets found in Ecleo's suitcase on Friday contained shabu.

Supt. Josephus Angan, acting Cebu City police chief, said the 50 policemen would come from the Mobile Patrol Group, Special Weapons and Tactics, and the Civilian Disturbance Unit.

They would implement tight security measures all the way from the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center, where Ecleo is detained, or a distance of about two kilometers, Angan said.

The painstaking preparations come amidst threats of renewed violence as a reaction to "criticisms" against Ecleo and his group, the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA).

Ecleo's mother, Surigao del Norte Rep. Glenda Ecleo, earlier warned the public, especially the media, against expressing "negative" opinions on the case.

The congresswoman told Cebu City-based radio station dyLA on Saturday that violence might erupt anew, if the PBMA could no longer take the "harsh" words being hurled against Ecleo Jr. and the association.

She would not confirm that her 47-year-old son, called "supreme master" by his followers, was an addict because, she said, she had not seen him taking illegal drugs. Besides, she added, she could not monitor all of her son's activities because he had a life of his own.

Today's preparations, police said, would duplicate the security provided Ecleo when he arrived in Cebu on Friday to face parricide charges for allegedly killing his wife, the former Alona Bacolod.

Ecleo was first presented to Executive Judge Galicano Arriesgado, who issued the arrest warrant, before the cult leader was committed to the rehab center.

It was during a routine search of Ecleo's personal belongings that a jail guard found the shabu wrapped together with a bar of Ivory bath soap in his green suitcase.

Top police and jail officials witnessed the search, among them Director Nestorio Gualberto, Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) chief; and Chief Supt. Avelino Razon, police director for Central Visayas.

Ecleo insisted that the drugs had been "planted." He said he did not know where the soap had come from, because he did not use that brand.

Angan said they tried to file the illegal drugs charges on Saturday afternoon, right after the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory Service confirmed that the three packets contained shabu.

But Assistant City Prosecutor Jesus Feliciano said Ecleo should be presented during the process.

Baron's gunman 'punished'

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE CONFESSED gunman of Baron Cervantes has been kicked out of his quarters at the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) compound in Camp Crame following the escape of a fellow suspect last week.

Citing "security reasons," police moved ex-Marine Sgt. Joseph Mostrales to the Naktaf jail on Saturday night, according to Mary "Rosebud" Ong, whose Witness Assistance Program provides help to Mostrales and his family.

Ong said Mostrales should not have been made to suffer for the escape of Rodolfo Patiño alias "Bullet" and two other suspected kidnappers from the heavily secured Naktaf compound.

Ong said Mostrales' transfer to the Naktaf jail would expose his wife and four children to danger because they could no longer stay with him.

"What if his family was kidnapped?" she asked. "In that case, I won't blame him if he would decide to retract because the life of his family would be at stake."

Ong claimed Mostrales arranged Patiño's "secret" arrest two weeks ago.

"He actually served Patiño's arrest to the police on a silver platter," she told the INQUIRER. "Why are they maltreating him now? Can we honestly believe that police were that good to arrest Patiño?"

Patiño had earlier been identified as one of seven men supposedly hired by Supt. Rafael Cardeño to liquidate Cervantes, the self-styled spokesperson of the Young Officer's Union.

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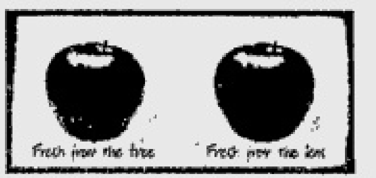

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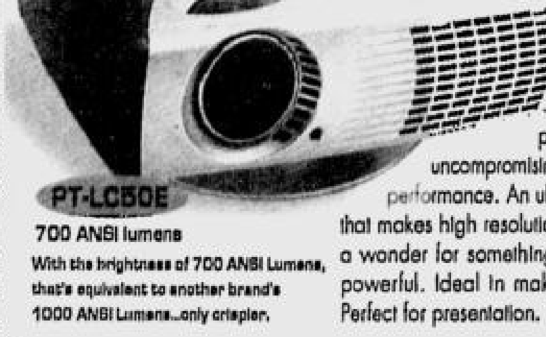

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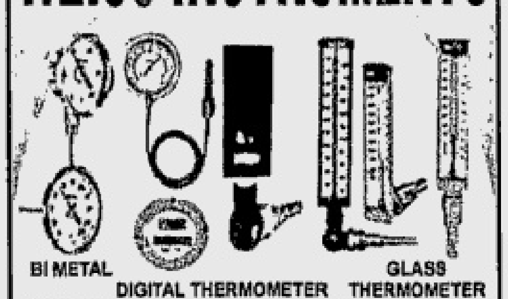

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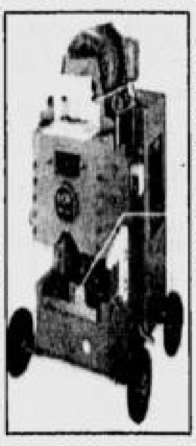

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SENATE ROW

'New majority' says math doesn't count in 12-12 split

By Rocky Nazareno

LET'S do this again: How many votes would validate a Senate reorganization?

Sen. Francis Pangilinan of the administration bloc figured that, out of 24 senators, "it's clearly 13, not 12."

Opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., up until yesterday, didn't think it was a math problem. He simply maintained that the reorganization that took place on June 3 was legal and binding.

As such, he said, it could not be invalidated by the 12 votes that the administration gained with the arrival of Sen. Ramon Revilla from the United States last week.

"It cannot be reversed," Pimentel said in a statement.

This was quickly challenged by Pangilinan. He said the reorganization was "void from the start," because it was undertaken without "the real majority" of 13 votes.

"(The opposition) just interpreted the Senate rules to favor their plan to seize power," Pangilinan said.

He also recalled that in the first days of the 12th Congress, the Senate President and other officers, as well as committee chairpersons, were elected on a vote of "at least" 13.

Pimentel said Senate President Franklin Drilon could not vote on the reorganization issue "except to break a deadlock, as stipulated in the Senate rules."

He said the opposition would reject any move to revamp the Senate at this point. "A vote by the 12 administration senators is not enough to change the decision to reorganize on June 3."

Meaning, among other things, the administration senators could not take back committee chairmanships taken over by the "new majority."

On the other hand, he admitted that the "new majority" could not remove Drilon as Senate President because it lacked one more vote.

He also he dismissed reports that two opposition senators were set to defect to the administration bloc.

"That is only propaganda. There is no crack in the ranks, despite tempting offers from the administration to jump to their side," Pimentel said.

Palace: No more revamps in Cabinet

By Carlito Pablo

MALACAÑANG yesterday said that there will be no more revamps on the Cabinet-level amid continuing talks that Environment Secretary Heherson "Sonny" Alvarez is on the way out.

Sources said that even though Alvarez was re-appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo on June 5, the Palace has been scouting for a new face to head the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Sources said Alvarez's replacement could very well be a senior Cabinet member.

Alvarez, one of the original complainants in the impeachment case against President Joseph Estrada, is the secretary general of the ruling Lakas-NUCD.

In a teleconference yesterday, Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said that the President has full confidence in her Cabinet and "as of this point, there will be no more revamps on the Cabinet level."

Asked whether Alvarez is staying, Afable said: "Well I cannot... he has been appointed and he is holding his position."

"I mean to say, well, he is secured in his position, but nonetheless he still has to pass the CA," Afable said.

Afable refused to say what will happen to Alvarez should he fail to get the CA's nod anew when Congress opens its session next month.

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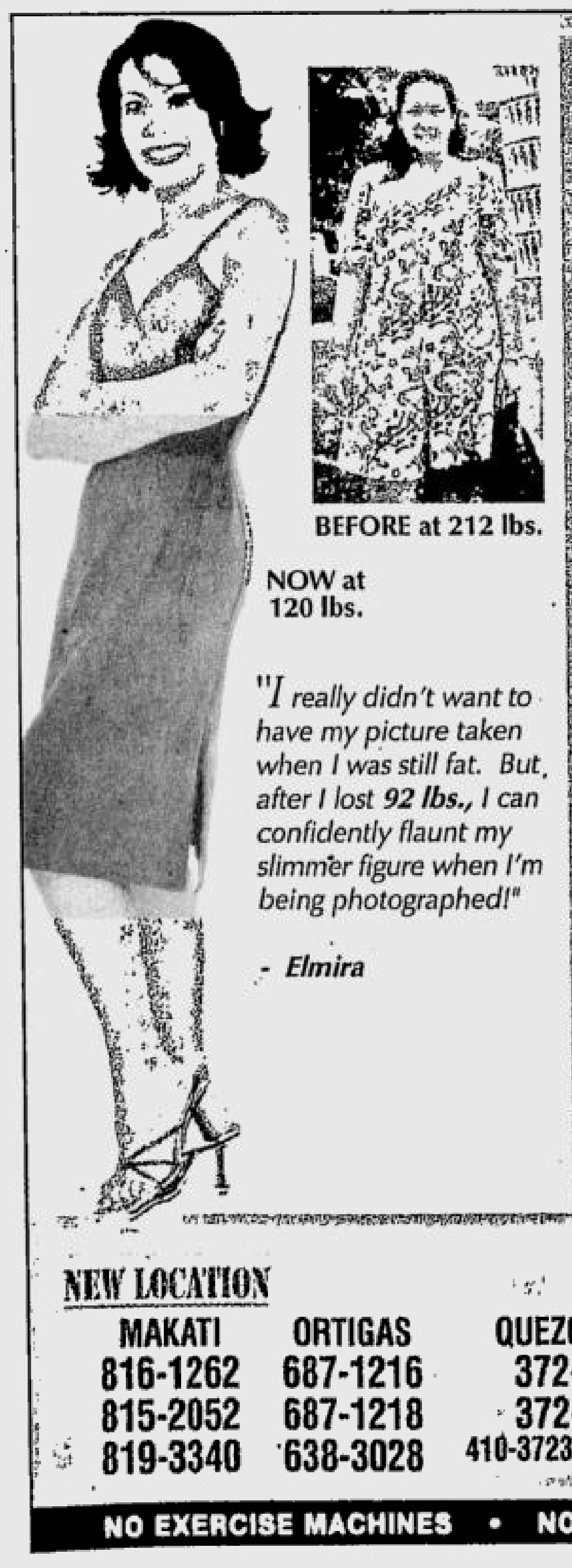
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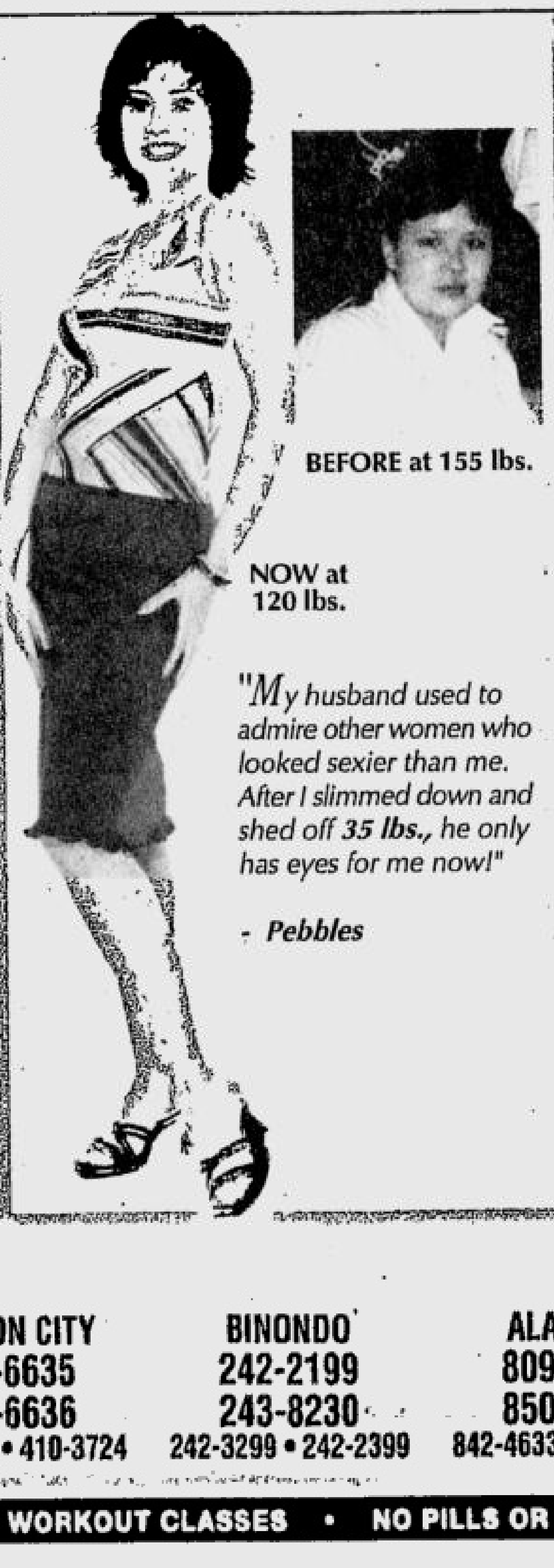
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IPP report out this week–Camacho

By Clarissa Batino

THE COMMITTEE reviewing government contracts with 35 independent power producers is ready to submit its report to President Macapagal-Arroyo by the end of the week, , according to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

Camacho refused to disclose the details of the report but he assured that the results were fairly evaluated and not influenced by anybody.

He stressed that the government, as a matter of policy, "would not unilaterally rescind" any of the contracts but would re-negotiate those that the committee would find to be grossly disadvantageous to the government.

"There would be no sacred cows. *Kung sino ang masasagasaan ay masasagasaan.* It is important for us to have a credible report," Camacho said.

Former President Fidel Ramos is being accused by some legislators and non-government groups of signing IPP contracts that were allegedly disadvantageous to the government and the taxpayers.

Because of the allegedly onerous contracts, Congress included a provision in the Electricity Industry Reform Act, which was signed in June 2001, calling for a review of the IPP deals.

"We would not indulge in whimsical, unilateral decisions. If we would question or renegotiate an IPP contract, we would seek remedies within the court like arbitration," Camacho said.

The IPP contracts were mostly long-term ranging from 15 to 25 years. All contained the so-called take-or-pay provision.

This provision obliged the National Power Corp. to buy about 80 percent of the capacity of the IPPs whether or not the electricity was used. In times of power supply glut like now because of the economic slowdown, consumers still pay for the unused power, bloating the cost of electricity.

A source from the IPP review committee said the group would recommend the re-negotiation of a few contracts that were clearly disadvantageous to the government.

But the source refused to name the specific IPP deals.

Napocor had forged 42 IPP contracts after the country experienced a severe power shortage from 1988 to 1993 during which consumers in Luzon suffered from eight to 12-hour rotating brownouts daily.

Before the power crisis, only Napocor built electricity plants in the country. Lack of time and funds forced it to let the private sector build quick-gestating plants that were financed with loans guaranteed by the government.

CON AIR?

62 US 'illegals' arriving tonight

By Blanche S. Rivera

HANDCUFFED and heavily guarded, 62 Filipinos will arrive in the country tonight after being deported by the United States government.

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration said many of the 58 men and four women had reportedly violated US immigration laws. Others, according to the Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles, California, were facing criminal charges, such as child molestation and theft.

The consulate had gathered the Filipinos—who had been detained in various US prisons pending deportation—and brought them to Arizona, where they were to take a chartered flight straight to Clark Airbase in Pampanga.

Owwa administrator Wilhelm Soriano said the deportees would be escorted by 16 members of the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Their handcuffs would be removed only upon reaching Philippine territory.

At press time, Owwa still did not have a list of names. "We don't know if they're legitimate overseas Filipino workers, or just Filipinos who have been deported," Soriano said.

In any case, he said, Owwa representatives would be at Clark Airbase to meet the deportees and facilitate reunion with their families.

This is the largest batch of Filipino deportees since the Sept. 11 terrorist bombings in the United States last year.

The Owwa was quick to say, however, that the deportation was not a result of the US government's intensified anti-terrorism drive.

A militant group yesterday urged the government to look into the cases of the deportees, saying the treatment they had gotten from the INS was "too much."

Migrante International said the Department of Foreign Affairs should ask the US government to apologize if the INS was found to have violated any law or agreement concerning deportation of aliens.

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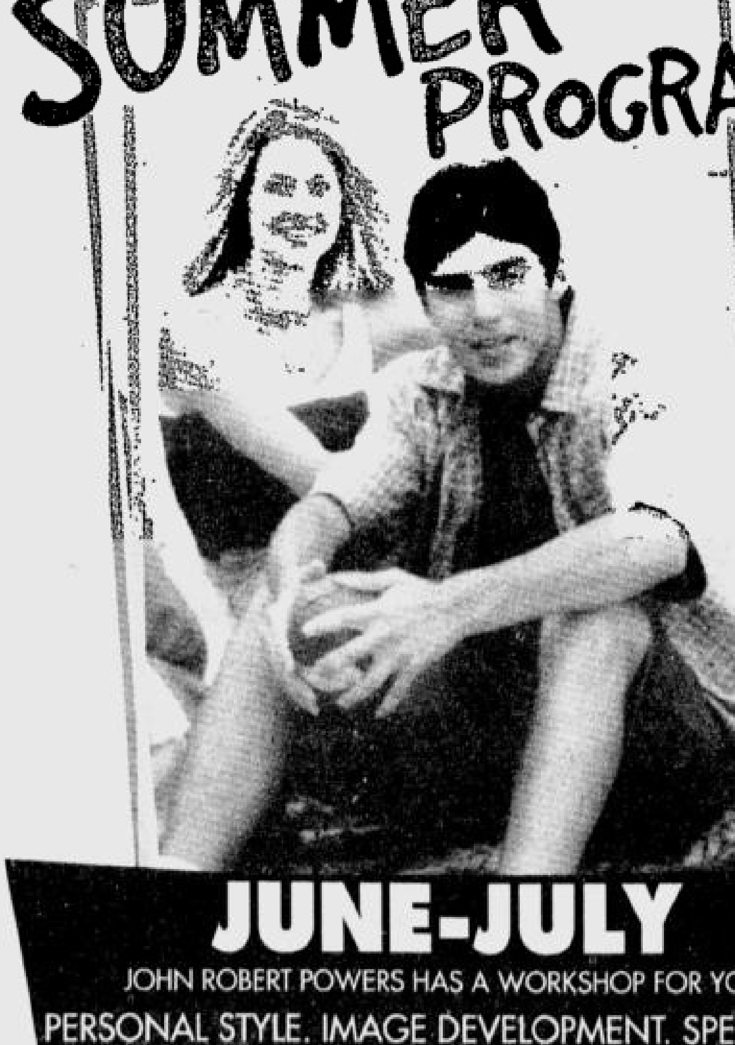

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June 27-28	Traditional Thai Massage (NEW)
June 28	Transparent Soap (*in cooperation with ITDI/DOST*)
June 29-30	Aromatic and Decorative Candle Making (*in cooperation with ITDI/DOST*)
June 29-30 & July 1	How to Start and Manage a Pre-school (*with field trip*)
June 29-30	Jewelry Appraisal and Pawnshop Operation
June 29-July 1	Fresh Flower Arrangement and Flower Shop Operation and Management (*with field trip*)
July 1-2	Resin Bonded Artwares
July 1-2	Setting up a Hardware and Construction Supply Store
July 1-3	Comprehensive Food and Beverage Services Course for Waiters, Bartenders and Stewards
July 2-4	Professional Housekeeping (Home, Hotel & Shipping Vessel)
July 3-4	Wood Framing
July 4-5	Therapeutic Massage (Swedish Style)
July 4-5	Printing Press Business (*with field trip*)
July 4-5	Fastfood Business Operation (*with field trip*)
July 5	Setting up a Travel Agency
July 6-7	Aromatic and Decorative Candle Making (*in cooperation with ITDI/DOST*)
July 6-7	Herbal Bath Soap (*in cooperation with ITDI/DOST*)
July 6-7	Hair Trimming, Perming, Dyeing and Make-up Techniques
July 6-8	Operating a Laundry Shop Business (Small-Scale) (*with field trip*)
July 8-9	Creative Photography (Basic)
July 8-9	Catering Business Operation
July 8-9	Entrepreneurial Marketing (NEW)

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June 27	Quail Raising
June 27-28	Intensive Culture of Tilapia in Tanks
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July 2-4	Mango Production (with Improved Flower Induction) and Post-Harvest Handling and Storage Technology (*with field trip*)
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Jakarta to send 2 cops to RP over abductions

JAKARTA—Indonesian police are planning to send two officers to the Philippines to seek information on a report that four Indonesian boat crewmen have been abducted by the Abu Sayyaf rebel group, National Police Chief, General Da'i Bachtiar, said Sunday.

"We will dispatch two police officers to the Philippines," Bachtiar told journalists after an anti-drug rally in Central Jakarta, the state Antara news agency reported.

Bachtiar did not give the name and rank of the officers and did not say when they will depart.

But he said that the officers will be sent not to intervene in the investigation by the Philippine National Police but just to seek more complete information on the abductions.

He also said that the Indonesian police have already held communications with their Philippine counterparts regarding the abductions.

"We cannot interfere in the investigation but in the Philippines, our officers will seek more complete information," Bachtiar said.

A group of eleven gunmen in military fatigues intercepted an Indonesian tugboat off the coast of Jolo on June 17, seizing the captain and three members of the crew, Philippine navy officials said.

One of the crewmen who escaped from the kidnappers gave information that pointed to the possible involvement of Abu Sayyaf, a brutal Muslim extremist group notorious for kidnapping foreigners in the southern Philippines.

The three others are reported to be held by the kidnappers in Luuk town in Jolo.

The Abu Sayyaf has links to al-Qaida. US troops in the Philippines are training local military as part of a crackdown on the group.

Pirates, smugglers and drug and gun traffickers also roam the vast seas in the country's extreme south near its borders with Malaysia and Indonesia. *AFP/AP*

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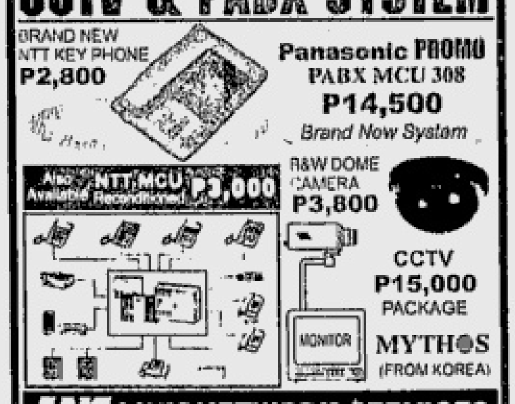
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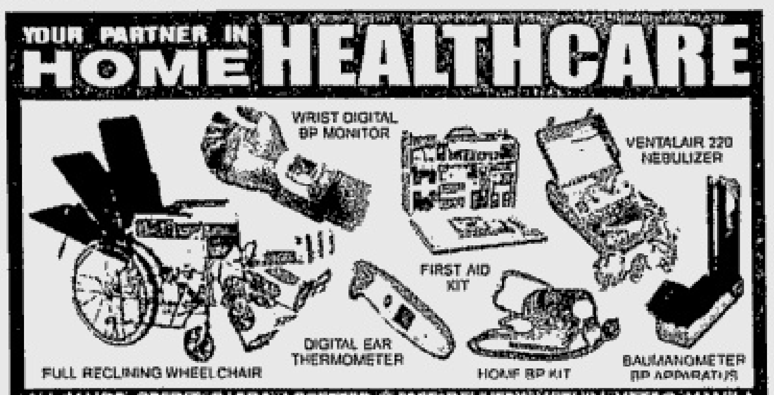

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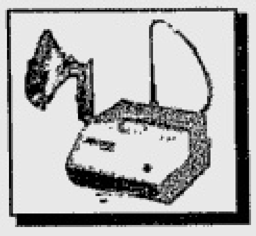
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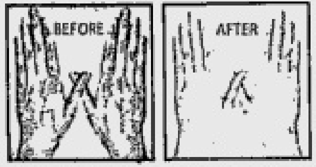

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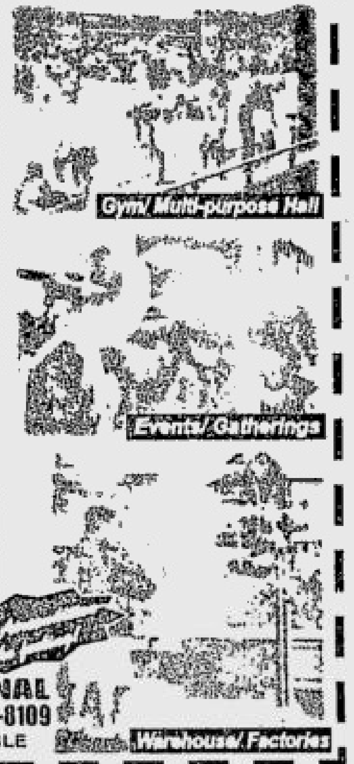

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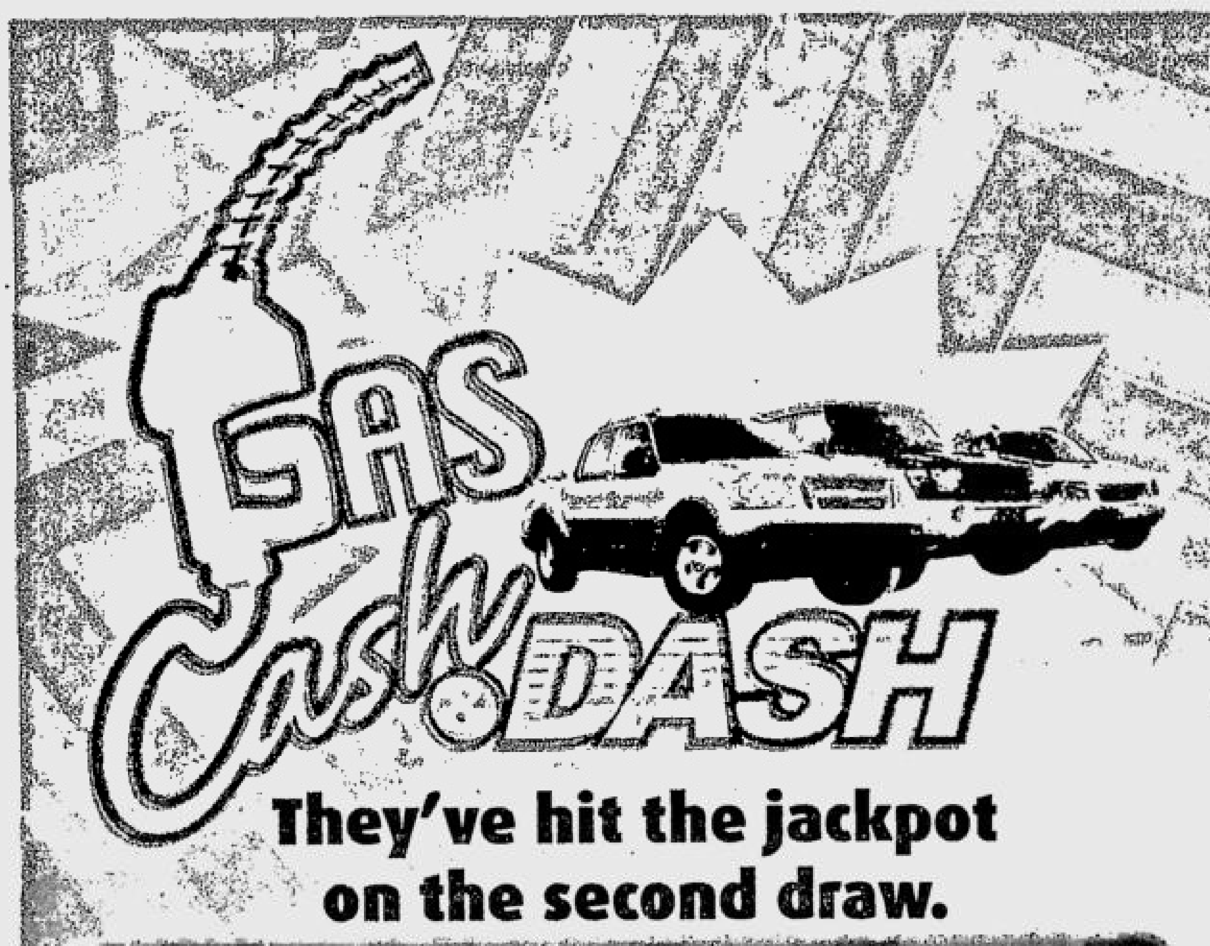

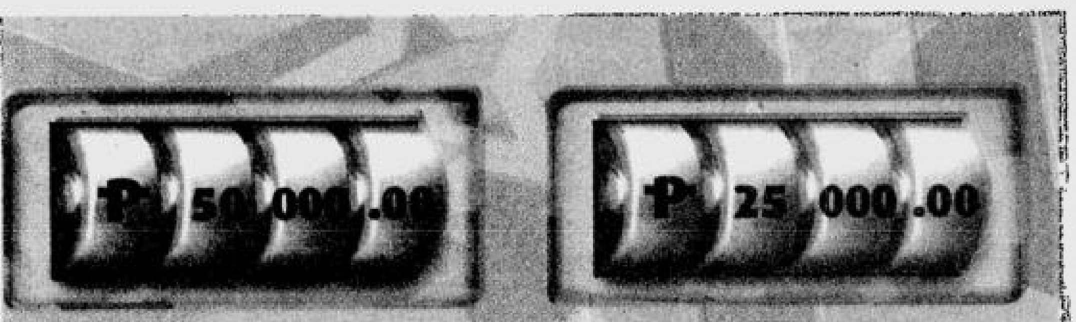

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Sabaya security escort captured

By Martin P. Marfil

EVEN as President Macapagal-Arroyo continued to bask in US President George W. Bush's warm praise for the killing of Abu Sabaya, the Armed Forces announced the capture of a security escort of the bandit leader.

Government troops caught Abner Asari in Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte the other day, AFP spokesperson Melchor Rosales said.

Rosales said Asari was picked up by a combat patrol in Barangay Mantibog, the same place where soldiers picked up barangay chair Samson Abbas on suspicion he provided sanctuary to Sabaya and his men from June 19 to 21.

"He (Asari) is under interrogation to determine his participation (in Sabaya's past acts)," Rosales said in a telephone interview.

"We are still trying to look for their network in Sibuco which protected them," he added.

Bush reinforced his public praise for Ms Macapagal with a five-minute personal telephone call yesterday. "The president indicated he was pleased with the successful operation," said White House Deputy Press Secretary Scott McClellan.

During the call, Bush discussed Friday's operation in which Sabaya was missing and presumed dead after a battle. In general, Bush told the Philippine president he is pleased with the special cooperation between the two countries, McClellan said.

Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the Southern Command, said the military was now targeting Abu Sayyaf chief Khadaffy Janjalani and another senior leader, Ghalib Andang, known as Commander Robot.

Robot led the abduction of 21 people, including Western tourists, from the Malaysian resort of Sipadan in April 2000. All but one were released in exchange for large ransoms.

Local joint . . .

From page A1

arthritis does not come with old age alone and people afflicted with it need not suffer," said Dr. Peter Bernardo, head of the arthritis and joint replacement unit of the Philippine General Hospital's Department of Orthopedics.

Arthritis has different forms—osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and traumatic arthritis. The most common, osteoarthritis, is often called the "wear-and-tear" type or degenerative osteoarthritis.

Practically every one of us will suffer from it to some degree throughout our lives. The disease affects 60-90 percent of people over 65 years old, and 25-30 percent of people between 45 and 64 years old.

The disease wears out cartilage in the joints. Weight-bearing joints like the hip and the knee are especially susceptible.

Rheumatoid arthritis is a chronic inflammatory systemic disease affecting young or middle-aged persons. The joint lining becomes inflamed, damaging the joint and causing deformity and stiffness.

In many cases, rheumatoid arthritis affects more than just one joint.

Traumatic arthritis, as its name connotes, can result from serious injury to the joint resulting in damage to the cartilage.

Medical practitioners say that of the million Filipinos suffering from arthritis, at least 30,000 are potential candidates for surgery every year. Yet, fewer than 1,000 people submit themselves to joint replacement every year.

Bernardo said the low number of patients with severe arthritis who had undergone surgery could be due to the lack of public awareness of the benefits of the procedure.

Safe

"The procedure is actually safe and has been done in the Philippines since the early 1970s," he said. In the United States, some 400,000 joint replacements are performed yearly.

However, not all afflicted with arthritis need an operation, according to Bernardo. In most cases, the early forms of the disease can be treated with anti-inflammatory medicines and physical therapy.

The best way for a patient to know whether joint replacement is needed is to consult an orthopedic surgeon or any other doctor specializing in bone-related diseases like a rheumatologist or physiatrist.

Several Filipino specialists who have trained abroad are adept at this type of surgery.

Lola Pacing admitted to her apprehensions about the procedure, like a metal implant and the notion that "the pain comes with age." These had stopped her from heeding doctor's advice 10 years ago for her to undergo bilateral hip replacement.

Her condition worsened. About three yeas ago, she woke up and realized that she could no longer walk.

Children's plea

When she could not bear anymore the pain of being in a wheelchair, she finally acceded to her children's plea for her to undergo the operation. In April, she was airlifted from General Santos City and brought to the PGH.

The operation was a success. Two months later, Lola Pacing said her life had not been the same again. Now, she can walk around with only a walker for support. She expressed the hope that she could walk without any gadget in a few more weeks.

"Thanks to my 'new hip,' I can watch Ati-atihan again," the grandmother said, referring to the festival in Aklan.

A clinical paper review found that 94 percent of the patients still enjoyed the benefits of new hips 10 years after the operation. Eighty-five percent enjoyed the benefits 20 years after the procedure.

Most patients claimed to experience significant relief from pain, with 91 percent enjoying good or excellent pain relief 12 to 16 years later.

Regular exercise

To make full use of the benefits of hip replacement, patients should participate in a regular light exercise program so that the proper strength and mobility of the new joint are maintained, according to Bernardo.

He said the patients should take measures to avoid falls and injuries, and undergo routine medical and X-ray examinations.

They must also keep their weight under control to reduce the pressure and stress on the new joint.

After about two to six months from the time of operation, patients can already walk, swim, play golf, dance or engage in any other activities as they enjoy life, according to Bernardo.

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National

DAR exec axed for Teves arrest

By G. Lacuarta

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza has suspended one of the two agrarian reform officials behind the arrest last month of LandBank president Margarito Teves.

Suspended was Benjamin Baui Jr., provincial legal officer of the Department of Agrarian Reform, who signed a memorandum of understanding used by his co-accused Napoleon Baguilat in rendering a decision that jacked up the value of the riceland from P3 million to P75 million.

The two officials are facing administrative charges stemming from the controversial arrest of Teves who refused to pay P75 million to the owners of a 53-hectare riceland in Nueva Ecija.

Baguilat, Region III provincial agrarian reform adjudicator, was recommended for suspension by Braganza in a June 18 report to President Maca-pagal. Braganza said only the President can order Baguilat's suspension since he is a Malacañang appointee.

Baguilat ordered the arrest of Teves and had him detained at the Manila police headquarters for 10 hours before he was allowed to post a P20,000 bail.

A special committee created by Braganza following the incident found a prima facie case against Baguilat for "oppression, grave misconduct and gross neglect of duty." He was reportedly found to have exhibited "undue haste" in resolving a contempt petition filed by the Nueva Ecija landowners against Teves over the Land Bank's refusal to pay P75 million in compensation for the 53-hectare property.

Baui was found liable for "grave misconduct, gross neglect of duty, inefficiency and incompetence."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, June 24, 2002
Birth of John the Baptist

1st Reading: Is 49:1-6
2ndReading: Acts 13:22-26
Gospel: Lk 1:57-66, 80

When the time came for Elizabeth, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the merciful Lord had done a wonderful thing for her and they rejoiced with her.

When on the eighth day they came to attend the circumcision of the child, they wanted to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." They said to her, "No one in your family has that name"; and they asked the father by means of signs for the name he wanted to give. Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and wrote on it, "His name is John," and they were very surprised. Immediately Zechariah could speak again and his first words were in praise of God.

A holy fear came on all in the neighborhood, and throughout the Hills of Judea the people talked about these events. All who heard of it pondered in their minds and wondered, "What will this child be?" For they understood that the hand of the Lord was with him.

As the child grew up, he was seen to be strong in the Spirit; he lived in the desert till the day when he appeared openly in Israel.

Commentary

"The measure you use for others will be used for you." Is this a warning with a certain amount of vengeance? Not really, it can be put in a different way: the measure you use for others is the only measure of what you are able to receive. When we judge others, what we are trying to do is adapt others to our narrow criteria, to our limited vision. We measure others according to our very concrete and personal frame of understanding. Jesus is not threatening his listeners but encouraging them to open their hearts, their minds and their hopes. To accept without reserve our differences will make us grow. The more we know and accept ourselves the more we will know and accept others. Trees of different sizes and colors make the forest a wonder. Let us celebrate our diversity. *Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)*

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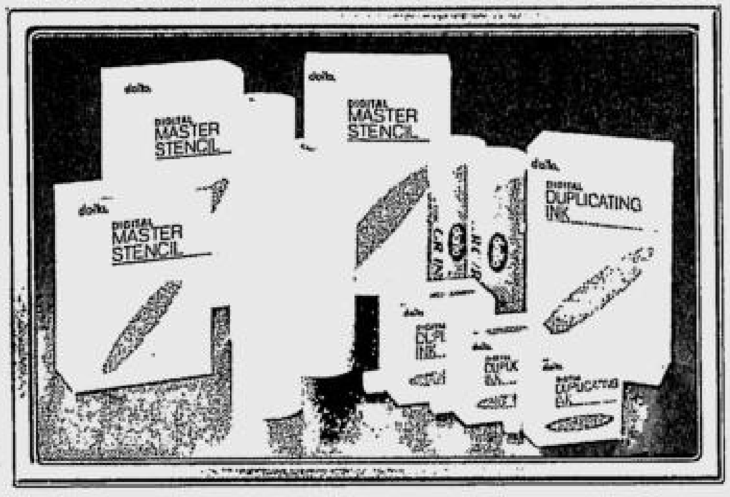

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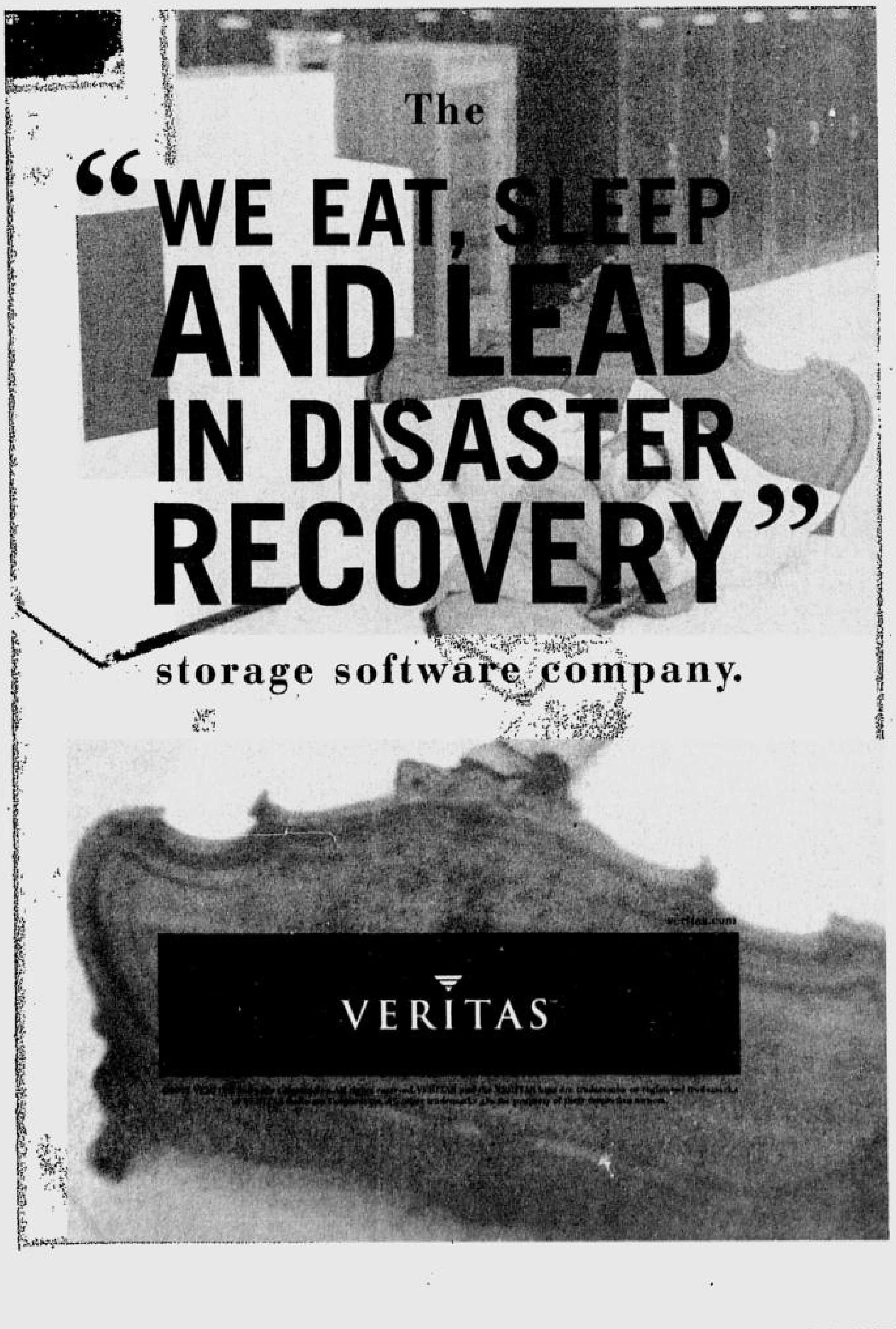

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OPINION

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Escape artists

EDITORIAL

WHEN Pentagon kidnap gang leader Faisal Marohombsar and two other kidnapping suspects slipped out of Camp Crame last Wednesday, they proved beyond any doubt that the Philippine National Police is—literally—sleeping on the job. The three fugitives escaped at around 1:30 a.m., and their absence was discovered only at roll call in the morning. Apparently, in the PNP's maximum security prisons, guards go to sleep at the same time as their detainees.

It took a full day before incoming PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane reached the inevitable conclusion: that the escape was "an inside job." The guards, in other words, were sleeping with the enemy.

Ebdane, chief of the National Anti-Crime Commission's Anti-Kidnapping Task Force, ordered the immediate relief of at least 24 members of the elite Special Action Forces, those who were on duty at the Naktaf detention facility on Wednesday night. But by then, of course, the damage had been done.

Marohombsar was arrested only four months ago, on Feb. 16, while "fast asleep" in a Quiapo hotel. Because the Pentagon gang is responsible for the high-profile kidnapping of Italian missionary Fr. Guiseppe Pierantoni, several Chinese engineers and the son of a former Vice President of the Philippines, Marohombsar's arrest was hailed as a breakthrough. "We have captured a very big fish," Ebdane said then.

Very big, and very slippery. Last Wednesday, while elite police officers were catching up on their sleep, one of the country's most wanted men walked out of his unlocked cell (one of three in a common detention room), picked a lock and, well, disappeared.

This much is certain. Marohombsar could not have escaped without the connivance of some members of the police. At the very least, the guards inside the detention facility and outside must have been persuaded to turn a blind eye, or to look the other way. "Without the involvement of third parties, you can't get out of the compound," Ebdane said—referring to what is, after all, only the national headquarters of the PNP.

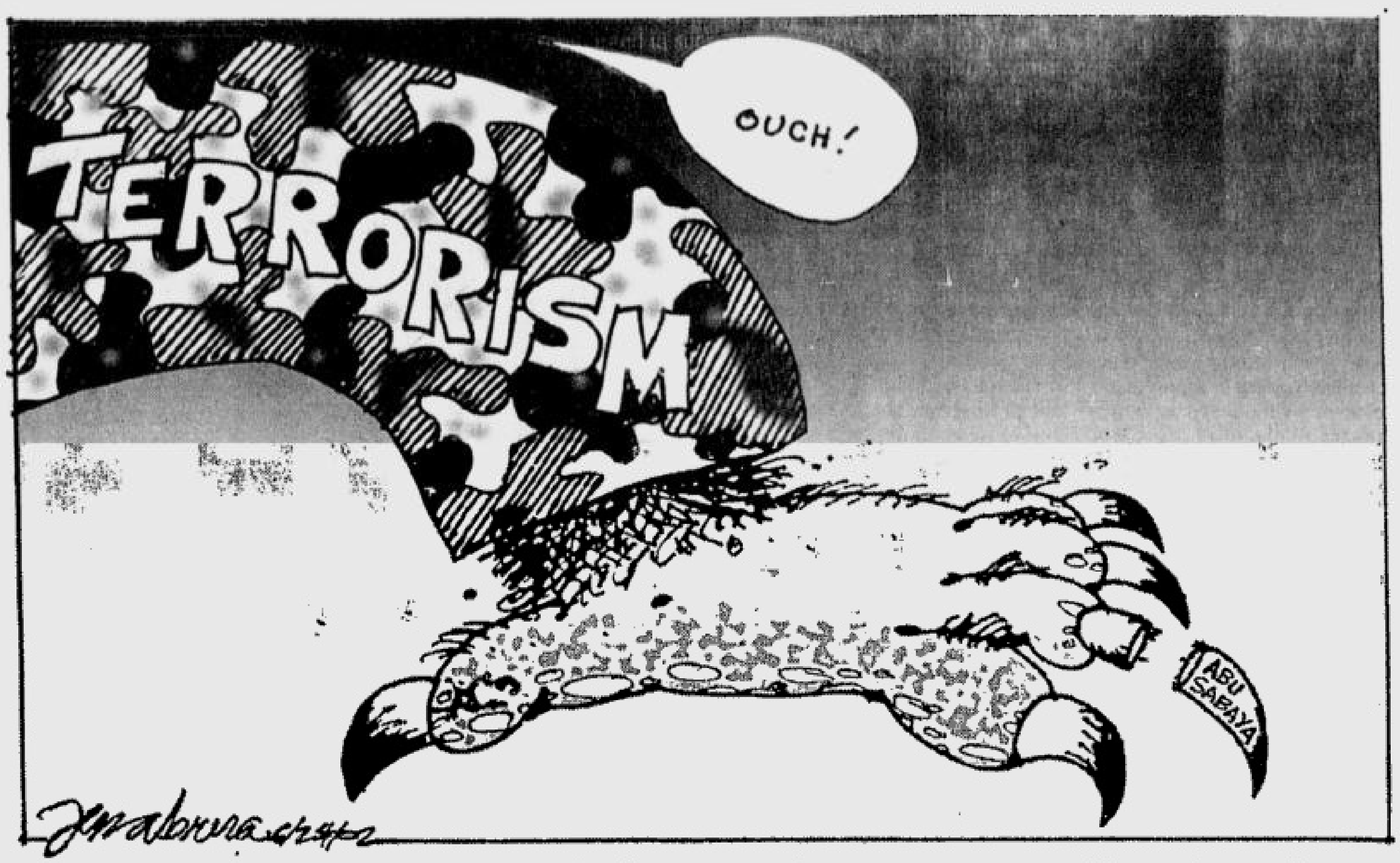
But Marohombsar's waltz last Wednesday reinforces public perception that kidnap-for-ransom gangs flourish with the participation of rogue policemen. It also throws new and unflattering light on the gang leader's own statements made last February. When he was arrested, Marohombsar said at first that he was actually a government operative, an "action agent" of Supt. Wilfredo Dangane, chief of the Sanlahi-Pentagon anti-kidnapping task force. Then he claimed that Interior Secretary Joey Lina and incumbent PNP chief and incoming transportation secretary Leandro Mendoza were involved in his activities.

He got a denial from no less than the President. "I have no reason to believe him. The fact is he was arrested. If he had the blessings of Lina and Mendoza, he would not have been caught," she said then. But as Wednesday's escape makes only too clear, in the porous world of Philippine law enforcement, getting arrested is one thing and staying in jail is another.

Speaking at the Mindanao Budget Summit last Saturday, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo vowed to get tough on crime and tougher on abusive or incompetent law enforcers. She praised Ebdane for ordering the immediate dismissal of Marohombsar's guards and said that from now on, erring policemen—such as those involved in the Dexter Balala hostage-taking tragedy in Pasay City—should be immediately relieved. We wonder if she appreciates the full impact of that order.

In a tolerant culture where coup plotters are meted a punishment of a hundred push-ups, accountability is an elusive notion. Erring police officials, in fact, are escape artists themselves. They escape being held accountable for their errors or abuses. A police general who has served time in jail for kidnapping is promoted to regional director. A police chief under whose term kidnapping has fallen to new lows is promoted to the Cabinet. And so on, *ad nauseam*.

Immediate relief makes for dramatic news, but if the President continues to mix the message by favoring dubious performers, the public will still be unable to sleep soundly at night.



AFP has no proof that Sabaya is really dead

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HOW convenient *naman* for the Southcom that the man whom it claims is Abu Sabaya "jumped" or "fell" into the sea off Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte. The water there is not only very deep (1,500 feet) but has also "very treacherous and strong currents" and is shark-infested. Thus, the Southcom is already preparing the public's mind that there would be no "corpus delicti" to prove the identity of the man.

"The divers are having a hard time finding the body because of the depth," said the statement. If no body is found, "the strong currents could have carried it away" or it could have been "eaten by sharks." The search can take a long time. Again, the military is preparing the public's mind for this by saying that the search for American victims of the Chinook crash in the Visayas took a month.

Thus, even if a body is recovered, it would be so bloated and already decomposing that it would be unrecognizable. Even alive, Abu Sabaya without his sunglasses and the black neckerchief wrapped around his head is already unrecognizable, what more so if he is already decomposing. Fingerprints would already be long gone, rotted away if not eaten by fish. Besides, I doubt if the military has a record of Sabaya's fingerprints to compare with those of the corpse's.

Thus, we have only the word of the Southcom that it is Sabaya. That's good enough for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President George W. Bush and Southcom chief Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, who are already rejoicing. No other man's alleged death has been met with such jubilation.

But what is the Southcom's proof that it was indeed Sabaya? Carolina said that the soldier who shot him—in the back—recognized Sabaya. If his back was turned, how did the soldier recognize him? And it was 4:30 a.m., pitch black. Even if the soldiers were wearing nigh-vision goggles, the images that can be seen through the goggles are hazy. Even close up, it would be difficult to recognize anybody with the goggles in total darkness.

The Southcom said the four other Abu Sayyaf bandits captured in the predawn battle confirmed that Abu Sabaya was with them, was hit and fell into the sea. If I were the bandits, or Sabaya himself, I would cultivate that story so the military will stop chasing me. How many times have criminals on the run planted stories that they were dead to take the heat off them? Or how many heavily insured people pretended that they were dead, even producing unrecognizable bodies, to collect their insurance?

Another proof: one of the three men who fell into the sea was "wearing black." Sabaya, the Southcom said, was wearing black during the encounter that resulted in the deaths of Martin Burnham and Edibora Yap. That's proof? That encounter took place weeks ago. Sabaya has not changed his clothes since then? (Maybe he can be recognized by his body odor?) Walk in any mall and you will see dozens of men wearing black.

Carolina also presented personal belongings of Sabaya such as his signature sunglasses, his satellite phone, .45-caliber pistol and his driver's license. But these were recovered not at the scene of the pre-dawn battle where Sabaya was supposed to have been shot but from many different encounter sites. They do not prove that Sabaya was in the battle off Sibuco.

With the evidence presented by the Southcom, no insurance company would pay the proceeds of his policy if Sabaya was insured.

By the way, this is not the first time that Sabaya has been reported to have fallen off a boat and died. After the Sipadan kidnapping, he was reported to have fallen off a pumpboat and killed while they were being chased by soldiers in the Sulu seas. That report proved to be false. This one could be, too.

* * *

Where in the world can you find an escaped prisoner giving interviews over the radio and setting the terms for his surrender? Only in the Philippines.

Pentagon kidnap gang leader Faizal Marohombsar, who, with two others, had walked out of the detention center of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force in Camp Crame, headquarters of the Philippine National Police, told Sen. Robert Barbers in a telephone conversation over Cotabato radio, that he wants to meet with the senator to discuss his conditions.

His conditions: That he be given a fair trial and that his group be allowed to apply for government amnesty. Marohombsar also promised to squeal on police officers who are protectors of kidnap gangs. He promised to spill everything. "I have evidence so they cannot deny it," he said.

Which is probably why he was allowed to escape, and why he wants to surrender. As an escaped prisoner on the run, he is fair game for chasing policemen. Dead men tell no tales.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: Presidents George W. Bush and Joseph Estrada were attending an international conference against pollution.

Bush: Do you have plenty of pollution in your country?

Erap: *Pulutan*? Oh yes, plenty. We have *sisig*, dried *pusit*, *isaw*, *adidas*, *adobong aso*, *chicharon bulaklak*, barbecue, *kilawin*. Plenty, plenty more.

Cults

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE WONDER of it is how they're able to grow to these fantastic proportions. If our eyewitness—the one who wrote to say he jammed with Ruben Ecleo Jr.—is to be believed, the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA) claims more than 10,000 followers. That was what he saw when he went to Dinagat in 1987—"a sea of tents and people, perhaps more than 10,000." They had gathered to hear their "master," Ecleo Jr., the living incarnation of Jesus Christ, talk to them in the divine language of Van Halen. Talk of God talking in strange tongues!

I myself have always been fascinated by cults, ever since Valentin de los Santos led his loyal followers in the Lapiang Malaya to Malacañang and died in a hail of gunfire. They're all over the country, and periodically make their presence felt through an outrageous act, both in the sense of weird, or something out of this world, and in the sense of an act of outrage, such as act of violence.

Not all cults are violent—the Rizalistas of the areas around Mt. Banahaw are a peaceable lot. If I remember right, there was a group, whose name I cannot now recall, but which sounded as grandiose as the PBMA, which caused a monstrous traffic jam in front of Camp Crame many years ago, by holding a rally there to demand, again if I recall right, employment and an end to poverty. They dispersed after several hours and after being promised the world by the authorities.

Some are violent, but often only from being conscripted by a cynical government to fight its wars. The head-hunting or brain-eating fanatical cults in Mindanao were so. They rose to prominence in the late 1980s after being unleashed to fight insurgency. Combining arcane religious worship and anti-communism (characteristics of the PBMA too), they proved exceptionally fierce, many of them believing that wearing talismans made them invulnerable.

It is comforting to dismiss these cults as populated by crazies who occupy the pores of society. Or it is tempting to think of them as underground characters who occupy the underbelly of society: America has its Mafia, we have our cults. Like the Mafia, they can opt to go mainstream—the Ecleos even have someone in Congress, Surigao del Norte Rep. Glenda Ecleo—but for the most part, they are fringe.

It is comforting and tempting to think of cults this way, but it's wrong. Cults in fact are more common and pervasive in this country than we think. Or "cult thinking" is. It draws from the same well our "thinking culture" does. Which should help to explain how they lure in people to their ranks with the ease with which P.T. Barnum lured in suckers to his circuses.

Look at the tremendous incongruities you find in the PBMA: a religion based on self-abnegation (no drink, no cigarettes), Latin gibberish for prayers and chants, heavy metal, a divine figure who dreams of becoming a rock star, action-movie fantasy (Ecleo's Angels or James Bond, Dinagat style, take your pick), and members devoutly swearing to being beneficiaries of miracles or having their lives profoundly changed by the "master's" teaching. Old and new, real and unreal, modern and atavistic.

That is pretty much Filipino culture, if not always manifested in that outré or grotesque form. Edsa, particularly Edsa I, was not unlike that. The first thing that struck outsiders about it was its incongruities: tanks and flowers, religion and politics, fascism and show biz, prayer and slogan, a deathly serious purpose and a lively fiesta or carnival (the local term, "*perya*," catches it better) atmosphere. These are not just superficial similarities.

Again, Ecleo Sr. and Jr.'s presumed divinity may be extreme, but that comes from a "folk Christianity"—which is what our religion basically is—that says God is not out there but among us. Our God is not a transcendental God, it is a God who is found in our daily life. Which is good and bad. You don't have to look far to see signs of it. You only have to go to Quiapo to see the vendors selling raiment for the Sto. Niño. God is not the Burning Bush demanding absolute fealty, he is the Christ-child demanding doting attention. Or look at the flagellants on Good Friday: Christ's suffering isn't just divine and unique, it is human and replicable.

You look at the El Shaddai and Iglesia ni Cristo and the other religious sects that have proliferated over the years, and you will be hard put not to find elements of the PBMA in them. Indeed, you look at the Catholic Church itself, and you will be hard put not to find elements of the PBMA in it. They too harbor arcane rituals, secret signs and objects resembling talismans, alongside very rational and benign tenets for living a good life. They do not claim divinity for their leaders, but they do claim, sometimes expressly, that their leaders have a pipeline to God. They are the voice through which God speaks. Is it harder to believe God speaks through heavy metal than that he speaks with a Bicolano accent through someone clad in a colorful plaid suit?

That cult followers are willing to commit mayhem to defend their leaders, look what Erap's legions did last year at "Edsa III." What is human law compared to the divine law that applies to these leaders? Of course Erap's legions never claimed divinity for him, but they claimed at least a prophet-like role for him. Well, maybe if FPJ runs for president. Even the divine Ecleo Jr. may turn around and worship at his feet.

Looking at the PBMA is not unlike looking at a trick mirror in a carnival. You will be hard put to recognize the image there, which grows fat and thin, short or tall, depending on where you stand. But you can at least be sure of one thing: That image there, for all its strangeness, is yours.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

GMA's best campaign manager

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE ADMINISTRATION'S handlers are confident that the decline in the President's net satisfaction rating from 16 percent in the first quarter to +4 percent this quarter is only temporary; that when the electricity prices drop soon, she will recover. They recall that former President Ramos' net satisfaction rating also plunged to only +1 in October 1995, during the rice crisis and the Contemplacion hanging, but that by April 1996, it bounced back to +17 percent. On the other hand, they note that ex-President Aquino's rating fell to +7 in November 1990, but recovered to +24 by April 1991. GMA's recovery, however, will depend on how she handles the socially sensitive issues, but one thing sure, her low rating serves as a wake-up call to address them more urgently.

* * *

GMA took a beating among the A, B and C classes with her negative 4 percent rating, but the opposition cannot gloat over it. The fact is that whatever those classes feel about her over the PPA issue, they panic when Sen. Edgardo Angara says that anyone of the opposition leaders considered "presidentiable," namely, himself, Sen. Panfilo Lacson and movie idol Fernando Poe Jr., can beat her in 2004. The feeling among the upper classes is that if the choice of whom to elect is down to anyone of those three versus GMA, they'll stick to her *na lang*. Angara is turning out to be GMA's best campaign manager.

* * *

Speaking of Angara, this column erred in citing that he was Senate chief during the voting on third reading on SB 2262 resetting the elections for Muslim Mindanao in February 2001. I had cited the voting on that issue as an example that Angara exercised his voting right as Senate president, contrary to the claim of the opposition, including two past Senate presidents, Angara and Aquilino Pimentel, that despite Sen. Ramon Revilla's return, the administration coalition remains the minority with 11 members. This is because, according to the opposition, the Senate president cannot vote except in case of a tie. Actually the Senate chief at that time was Pimentel, who voted with 21 others. On the other hand, Angara as chamber chief also voted on various issues, among them, on SB 1253, "An Act Creating Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils."

* * *

Ex-Sen. Jovito Salonga has only praises for the "humility and common sense" of his *kumpadre* Fernando Poe Jr., who recently said he's not running for president in 2004. FPJ was Salonga's co-sponsor at the baptism of Jinggoy Estrada, making them both Erap's compadres. Salonga says that FPJ's keen awareness of his own limitations in the face of "the exacting requirements imposed on any person, no matter how able or well-qualified, to administer the affairs of this fractious, divided nation" with its many problems must have weighed on the actor heavily. But evidently, he said, his compadre resisted deceiving the adoring *masa* or caving in to self-appointed promoters with vested interests. Salonga praised FPJ for deciding to confine his time and talent to movie acting and recognizing the difference between fantasy and reality, thus helping avoid a "possible disaster."

Let's hope that FPJ remains sensible all the way to 2004. I recall that in 1993, then Vice President Estrada told me in Cebu that he will never run for president as he can see how tough a time President Ramos was having; Erap felt that he could never do the job. Five years later he ran and the result was unmitigated disaster.

* * *

I was lucky to visit two "Wow Philippines" places this summer: Boracay, where I helped judge a painting contest involving 50 sailboats organized by the DENR, and Pagudpud in Ilocos Norte, billed as the "pristine Boracay" of 40 years ago. Boracay's beaches, however, are superior since its waters are shallow and quite safe for kids; Pagudpud's beaches on the China Sea tend to be steep and the waves can get big. The latter's advantage, however, is that it is still quiet and unspoiled—the perfect getaway place—unlike Boracay. There are three resort hotels there with a combined total of about 100 rooms. Maja Henson Sales, who runs the premier resort, Saud Beach Resort & Hotel, stressed that Pagudpud is not ready to go big-time; she narrated how, as a result of all the publicity it has been getting, tourists flocked there by the hundreds last Holy Week, throwing the natives into consternation. Sales is asking Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon, who has never been to Pagudpud, to see for himself how badly they need facilities, e.g., public toilets.

* * *

To take full advantage of a trip to Pagudpud, it's best to allocate three or four days, so that one can take in Laoag City, Vigan City and San Fernando, La Union along the way. Driving to Manila, my family dropped by Paoay, about 13 km from Laoag City, to visit its church which is always featured in every book on Philippine churches because of its unique Sri-Vishayan or Hindu-influenced façade. I must say, however, that for a Unesco World Heritage Site, the church's state of utter disrepair and decrepitness shocked me. The windows are all falling apart and the floor needs repair badly; grass has been allowed to grow on the massive exterior walls that serve as flying buttresses. It's not hard to imagine, though, how beautiful this church must have been centuries back.

Obviously Paoay's parish priest cannot do by himself the job of restoring the church to its architectural and historical pre-eminence it deserves. He needs help. I would like to appeal to Ilocos Norte's two House members, Representatives Imee Marcos and Roquito Ablan, as well as the local officials, to help save this famous church.

Poetic justice

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

USTADZ Rosel Lagbawan could not control his tears as he listened to Assistant Provincial Prosecutor Benjamin Pacetes making his oral arguments last June 5, 2002 before Judge Diosdado Yamas of the Regional Trial Court Branch 5 of Mati, Davao Oriental. Most of Lagbawan's 30 other fellow Moro detainees, including some relatives and friends who packed the court, also broke down in tears, for happiness, at least.

"We waited for this moment, almost desperately, for nearly two years now," said Lagbawan, an Arabic teacher from Mati. He was referring to the dismissal of charges—ranging from multiple murder, multiple frustrated murder and robbery in band—filed against him and his co-accused. The military and police had accused them of perpetrating several violent incidents between June and July 2000 in Davao Oriental at the height of the "all-out war" waged by deposed President Joseph Estrada against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Pacetes had asked the court to dismiss the charges against them not only for lack of evidence, but because the main evidence—the extrajudicial confession of two detainees—was inadmissible and illegal. In his investigation, Pacetes found out that the confessions of Rodel Mapando and Toto Onofre were obtained after they were "subjected to physical violence and torture" by the military. "My stand is not only to prosecute cases but to see to it that justice is done to everyone and to assist the court in securing justice to them (detainees)," Pacetes said.

It was a move that caught us, in the defense panel, by surprise. Our group from Davao City arrived in Mati early that day preparing for a two-day continuous trial, and not a dismissal from the prosecution. "We commend the magnanimity of the prosecution for (finally) admitting that it has no evidence against the accused," said Manuel Quibod, regional coordinator for the Free Legal Assistance Group in Southern Mindanao. Our panel also included Napoleon Sango and Joel Mahinay, both former political detainees during the Marcos and Aquino administrations, respectively, and Lanang Ali of Cotabato City.

The plight of the "Mati Moro Political Detainees," as they were referred to by the human rights group Karapatan which assisted them, was an issue that had been glossed over in the peace talks between the government and the MILF. Despite the forging of agreements between the government and the MILF on the rehabilitation of areas affected by Estrada's "total war," nothing was said on the rehabilitation of people, like Lagbawan and his fellow detainees, who suffered not only physical but also emotional trauma.

When the "all-out war" spilled over to the Moro-populated towns of Davao Oriental, many residents fled to evacuation centers in Barangay Tababakid in Mati. It was here that most of the Moro detainees were arrested without warrants on July 18, 2000 by the military which went on a house-to-house search. The others were picked up the following day, July 19, during a supposed *pulong-pulong* where a masked person accompanying the military indiscriminately pointed to just anybody as MILF members.

All detainees, four of them minors at that time, shared with me their individual tales of torture, reminiscent of the martial law era that forced them to admit membership with the MILF. It was only after nearly a week in military custody that their relatives saw them again. In a way, they were still lucky because, as Karapatan reported, Moro residents who were similarly arrested during that period are still missing and are feared to have been "salvaged."

When I first visited them in jail in early March 2001, etched on their faces were signs of trauma from the physical and emotional violence they bore. Being mostly farmers and fishers, their economic displacement and separation from their families further aggravated their situation. Worse, no counsel represented them for eight months. When FLAG learned of their plight, it stepped in and represented them pro bono. I learned from their relatives that they had to sell their farm animals to pay a government employee who promised the release of their detained kin. The employee did not make good his promise.

"Mas naawa ako sa pamilya ko, lalo na sa mga anak ko," Elmer Onofre confided to me. He was arrested on July 18, 2000 while waiting for a vehicle to transport his sick child to a hospital in Mati. *"Bagong dating ako galling sa pangingisda ng sabihin ng asawa ko may sakit ang anak namin. Habang naghihintay ako ng masasakyan, dumating ang* military *at pinilit nila akong sumakay sa sasakyan nila. Sa loob ng sasakyan, may mga taong nakatali ang mga kamay na hinuli rin nila."* For the rest of his life, he said, he can never forget the pain he underwent for nearly a week after his arrest.

"Grabe ang torture *na nadaanan namin."*

I cannot blame the Mati detainees if, somehow in the process of waiting for nearly two years, they have lost their trust in the country's justice system. Racial profiling of the Moro people as the usual suspects are still evident, specially now in the advent of the so-called "global war on terrorism."

Freedom for them may be two years late, yet, the irony of their release last June 5 was not lost on Onofre. *"Kami malaya na. Pero ang promotor ng* all-out war *laban sa mga* Moro, *nakakulong pa. Siguradong bitay si* Erap *dahil sa* all-out corruption *niya,"* he said.

Theirs may be one classic case of "poetic justice" played out in the end.

But as the youthful Ustadz Lagbawan reflected, other "battles" await them—that of rebuilding their lives and of shattering racial prejudices that continue to haunt, and destroy lives.

* * *

Comments at karlos_z23@hotmail.com or kar_laws@yahoo.com

The evidence that convicted Jose Rizal

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

HAPPY birthday, Jose Rizal!

Belated, I should say, since there was little if any public commemoration, even among schoolchildren, of the anniversary of your birth this month. In fact, most students and many teachers might be hard pressed to give your exact birth date, as the teaching and learning of "mere facts and figures" in history, mathematics and science, have fallen into disrepute, if not political incorrectness. Instead, something called "critical and integrative thinking" is in vogue among educators, an old idea in new jargon, that you might gladly concede to them if it results in more thinking, of whatever kind, and better test results, among the student youth.

I am happy to report that "J.P. Rizal" is at least the name of a busy street in most towns and cities. (Happy, because I know this would make you blush, modesty, being an unconscious and automatic habit of yours.) Never mind that even the well educated cannot read you in the original Spanish of your novels and letters. Enough has come through in translation, that major thoroughfares bear your name. Your smaller-than-life statue is to be found in the most unexpected of places, usually in sun-drenched glory, often draped with someone's drying laundry.

But do not blame your countrymen for their shabby treatment of you. You are not the easiest national hero to have. I hate to tell you this, but there has always been this scuttlebutt that you aren't even our choice. We really wanted Andres Bonifacio, or was it Emilio Aguinaldo? Some say the imperialist Norte Americanos did not want to make a model of true *revolucionarios*. So they made you, a writer of fiction, an overseas Filipino worker and a lover of foreign women, the national hero of the Filipinos, the better to pacify, colonize and exploit them.

It gets worse. Some people have been spreading the news that you are actually a Protestant, an apostate and an excommunicated Mason, who was criminally liable for treason and deserved to be executed after being legally tried and found guilty. Well, you were guilty of these.

Your one-day trial before a swift execution at the end of December 1896, is often portrayed as a kangaroo court. But I do not believe that the Spanish civil and religious authorities who conspired to murder you would have acted without legal and judicial cover. I believe that convincing and admissible evidence of capital crimes on your part was actually produced at the trial. A sufficient defense could not be mounted, for the crimes of which you were accused and convicted were treason and apostasy, and the evidence supplied consisted of long, original letters written in your own calligraphic handwriting from exile in Dapitan between 1892 and 1893.

This evidence must have been secretly supplied by, and attested to during the trial, by your correspondent in that epistolary—your old friend, mentor and confessor at the Ateneo de Manila, Fr. Pablo Pastells, S.J. Those originals, in your own hand, mysteriously disappeared for nearly a century immediately after the trial, secreted in a vault of archives at a Jesuit monastery in Sant Cugat del Valles, in Barcelona, Spain. They were finally allowed to be unearthed and published in Spanish and English translation by the late Raul J. Bonoan, S.J. (Ateneo de Manila University Press, 1994).

Judging by what you wrote in these letters, if I were among the Spanish judges in the tribunal that condemned you, I too would have to vote guilty on the basis of them as evidence. How foolhardy and reckless of you to have written them (but how wonderful for us that you did!). Unlike the terseness of modern-day texting and e-mail, you were lavish and loquacious in sealing your fate by proclaiming in these letters from your Dapitan exile, indisputable heresies, treasons and apostasies to delight the Inquisitors.

You see, the stuff you wrote in the novels was actually forgivable, I think, and certainly not admissible as legal evidence of treason, being plainly works of literary creation. Even your 19th century *roman à clef* of sexual imbroglios among church men, starring Padre Damaso and Capitan Tiago's wife, Padre Salvi and the bathing beauty Maria Clara, did not earn you a death sentence.

Your novels merely mirrored common experience, and as you always claimed, they were based on things that really did happen to real people. What got you the firing squad were words written in your own hand, freely and willfully expressed to someone who did not coerce or cajole you into admitting these heinous crimes of thought. You did that all by yourself. Denial of the infallibility of the Roman pontiff. Adherence to personal conscience over official Church teaching. Disbelief in the literal truth of biblical revelation. Proclaiming nature to be the true book of divine revelation, and science not religion, as the way to God. Denial of Catholicism as the one true faith and the first strong advocacy of democratic tolerance and ecumenism. All were capital offenses under the rule of the Spanish Taliban in the Philippines.

So here is our birthday present to you sir, from all in the vast audience of history to whom you addressed these letters, and which posterity will read as unequivocal essays of your personal articles of faith. All these crimes of which you were convicted are committed in good conscience by Filipinos who also practice the morality, goodness and charity that was already in the hearts of men, long before organized religion was invented.

* * *

Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

Public apology

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

WHAT an uncanny coincidence!

Last June 17, my article ("Is Edibora Yap a hero or heroine?") took up the subject of politically correct words. It underscored the need for writers to be careful in their choice of words to avoid putting their subjects in a bad light.

Well, what do you know? In the same issue, the Inquirer came up with a headline that exactly did the opposite of what I was preaching. The front page's banner was "Erap eyes FPJ for 2004." Below this headline were written the words "Ang Panday to battle Ang Pandak?"

There was nothing wrong with the words "Ang Panday" which referred to the character that movie actor Fernando Poe Jr. portrayed in a number of blockbuster movies. Although the person described as "Ang Pandak" was not named in the sub-headline, it was obvious from a reading of the accompanying news that it had President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in mind.

A reader, Cesar de los Reyes, reminded me of what I earlier wrote about politically correct words. He said:"You just broke your own rule by referring to GMA as '*pandak*.' Has the PDI finally come down to the level of cheap and vulgar tabloids? It's totally distasteful!"

By mid-afternoon, the Inquirer had a heavy dose of e-mail, phone calls and text messages criticizing it for the use of the "p" word. Several AM radio commentators took the newspaper to task for that irreverent description of the highest official of the land.

Some of the e-mail demanded a front-page apology from the newspaper. There were even text messages calling for a boycott of the Inquirer for at least one month as punishment for that blooper.

A colleague in the profession who I have not heard from in years called to express his disappointment over a headline that "one sees only in tabloids that use porno materials to attract patronage."

Public reaction

I was surprised by the strong reaction to the headline. I did not know where to attribute it. It's either the President enjoys a high approval rating, or Filipinos are generally sensitive to anything that tends to demean the Office of the President, or it was the readers' way of saying that the Inquirer went out of bounds in its treatment of the President.

Capping the stream of complaints was the strongly worded letter of the President's husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo. From the way it was written, it was obvious he wrote it under a state of emotional rage. The "shame on you" words he used reflected his serious dissatisfaction with the unflattering description of his wife's height.

It did not take long for the editors to acknowledge that the words in question were improper or, to use today's vocabulary, politically incorrect. While it may be argued that no disrespect was intended to be given to the President, the "p" word carries a derisive or derogatory connotation for most Filipinos.

After reaching the consensus that an apology was in order, the editors then discussed the appropriate form of the expression of regrets. Should it be included in the follow-up news report? Or should it be placed in a box so it will immediately catch the readers' attention?

Arroyo's letter-complaint provided the answer to the question. Why not simply publish his letter "as is" and put the editors' apologies at the bottom? That approach, plus putting the letter and apology at the front page, was readily agreed to by the editors.

Later in the afternoon, a staff member of the GMA-7 television network called to ask for the Inquirer's side on a Malacañang official's complaint that the "p" word was foul. The editors immediately issued a written apology for the use of the politically incorrect words. The apology was aired in the TV station's evening news on the same day.

Regrets

So the following day, June 18, the Inquirer's front page carried Arroyo's letter and the editors' expression of regrets. To my knowledge, that was the first time the newspaper published in full a letter criticizing its own news report and, at the same time, apologizing for the breach in journalistic ethics.

Incidentally, a foreigner who read the apology asked me what the whole fuss was all about. He asked, "if you used the words 'short' or 'vertically-challenged' instead, would that have avoided the mess?" I was hard-pressed explaining to him that the word in question has a certain slant that is unique to the Filipinos. The closest I could describe the impact of the word is to relate it to the reaction of African-Americans when they are called "niggers."

Malacañang and Arroyo promptly accepted the Inquirer's mea culpa to put an end to the unfortunate slip in editorial judgment.

Now that everything has, in some way, "been forgiven," I think it is timely to do some Monday quarterbacking. There are some lessons that can be learned from the incident.

For starters, it confirms that the readers of the Inquirer demand the highest quality of journalistic work from the editorial staff. It's not enough that the news is reported accurately, completely and promptly. It should also be sensitive to the community's social, cultural and religious values. The newspaper cannot set itself apart from the environment it seeks to serve.

There are some words and phrases in English and Filipino that may appear neutral from the writer's perspective but convey a different (often derogatory) meaning to the readers. Writers are therefore advised to use a popular street language, *bumusina muna bago pumasok* (or check things out first before you say anything).

The incident also showed that the readers will not simply sit back and let things pass if they feel the newspaper did not live up to their expectations. They will show their dissatisfaction by picking up the telephone, writing letters, or sending e-mail or text messages to the editorial room or to whoever cared to listen to their complaints.

Or worse, use the power of their purse to give the newspaper a lesson in courtesy and proper exercise of journalistic power.

There is another way of looking at the readers' reaction to the Inquirer gaffe—they care enough for it so they will not hesitate to act if it does anything that may diminish its worth as a courier of balanced news and fearless views.

Applying the principle of noblesse oblige, when much is given to a newspaper, much is expected from its people to be worthy and deserving of that endowment.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City." Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Protecting public trust in the audit profession

IT is understandable that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) wants to enforce a rotation of audit firms or audit partners (within the same firm) every five years to assure members of the public that they can continue to rely on audited financial statements as a basis for financial decision-making. However, one audit firm wants to debate the wisdom of having a fifth-year rotation. ("SEC urged to scrap rule on rotation of auditors," PDI, 6/6/02)

This is not a good time, however, to negotiate for a seventh- or 10th-year rotation, as the audit firm suggested. The current context and public mood favor an early rotation. In the United States and in Europe, an early rotation is one of several accounting reform measures being undertaken to prevent or stop accounting irregularities or "creative accounting." Government regulators have been investigating or penalizing a number of international audit firms for lapses in the conduct of audit engagements or for compromising their audit independence. Local audit firms may argue that they have not committed these audit lapses. However, the Philippine SEC is virtually forced to apply an early rotation because financial statements have to be internationally acceptable.

The fifth-year rotation would even benefit audit clients. Auditors would maintain audit excellence because the next audit team could confirm audit quality or uncover incompetence. If the early rotation result in added costs, clients will see these new costs are outweighed by their continued access to foreign investors and global lenders. As users of financial statements, these investors and bankers would insist on financial statements audited according to procedures acceptable to them. These users no longer rely solely on the reputation of the accounting firms known as the Big Five (now collapsed into the Big Four). Because of the tooth-and-nail battle for clients now, audit firms may even have to waive these added costs.

The fifth-year rotation, thus, favors SEC's mission to implement measures for good corporate governance. Auditors should welcome the SEC rule and treat it as an opportunity to once again protect the accounting profession against public suspicion. They should even commend SEC Chair Lilia R. Bautista for allowing the rotation of clients among audit partners of the same firm. The SEC could have just as easily insisted on rotation by new audit firms.

—ROMEO J. PAJARILLO,
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Unaffordable kidney treatment costs

PASSING the National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI) two weeks ago, I noticed the banner announcing June as national kidney month. The theme on the banner was "Kalusugan para sa Higit na Nangangailangan (Health for Those Who are Most in Need)."

What is the purpose of this slogan? Is the purpose to give the impression that the most needy are having their health needs met by government hospitals? What happens to patients who can't afford the health care they need? So many teenagers and young people need dialysis or transplants, usually because they couldn't afford basic health care when they had minor infections and this resulted in serious kidney infection. Families can't pay the fees for laboratory work, medicine, treatments. Just to keep her teenage son alive, an urban poor mother has to beg P2,500 for a dialysis twice a week, plus spend all her time, energy and money for transportation. She would never be able to get enough for the needed transplant. Where can they go for help?

Imagine the ordinary worker, or even professionals who need a kidney transplant. The current information from the NKTI estimates the expenses to be P360,480 plus lifetime medications costing P9,000 monthly at current prices and lifetime blood tests every three to six months costing P 1,000 per testing at current prices. This includes P46,000 for the donor screening and P34,500 for the recipient screening. The transplant surgery is priced at P130,000 and medicines needed daily for the first four months cost P942 per day.

When I was following up a request to obtain medicines for a kidney transplant patient, I made a shocking discovery. NKTI patients are required to have their laboratory tests done at the NKTI, even though the rates are higher there than at some outside laboratories. And the daily medicines required are priced higher at the NKTI pharmacy than at for-profit drug stores. Two examples were given, both of which must be taken daily by post-transplant patients. One was priced at P206 per capsule at the NKTI, outside it could be bought for P169. The other cost P191 at the NKTI and could be purchased outside for P100.

Just this month the daughter of a patient who needs surgery reported that her father was charged P500 for an Emergency Room fee at the NKTI. For what? A catheter was inserted and papers were prepared for admission. But admission will be another trip, another day. When there will be a vacancy.

More than slogans and banners are needed to provide "Kalusugan para sa Higit na Nangangailangan." Major changes are needed in prioritizing the national and health budgets—and the whole economic system. The more health care is given over to private interests and corporations, the higher the costs will soar. This is truly a people's issue, a basic human rights issue, a government responsibility issue.

—SR. MARY GRENOUGH,
M.M., board of trustees,
Council for Health and
Development Inc.,
RSG Compound, 1043
Aurora Blvd.,
Quezon City

Reference year is 2000, not 2001

THIS refers to the news item "Gold mining sector grows 15% in QI on BSP purchases" published in the INQUIRER on June 13, 2002. We would like to call the attention of the public on the statement, "Mining operations of Manila Mining Corp. and Maricalum Mining Corp. also contributed to a substantial growth in production." This statement should refer to calendar year 2000 and not calendar year 2001, inasmuch as the companies mentioned have suspended their operations in 2001.

Manila Mining Corp. declared a temporary stop of its Placer Project in Surigao del Norte in July 2001 while Maricalum Mining Corp., stopped its Sipalay Copper Project in June 2001.

—BENJAMIN M. DE VERA,
chief, mineral economics,
information and publications
division, Mines and Geo-
sciences Bureau, Department
of Environment and Natural
Resources, North Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City

Why early campaigning for top posts should be allowed

PEOPLE are confused as to whether or not the candidates for 2004 should come up front now.

There are some points to consider: Firstly, the law bans candidates for national office from campaigning 90 days before the election. This matter must first be resolved; and anyone who violates must be held accountable, reprimanded or banned from running.

A candidate who does not know how to follow the law must never be allowed to sit in office. *Wala pa sa puwesto, nagpapalusot na.* What more if he or she gets elected?

On the other hand, the electorate must be able to scrutinize this early people who are aspiring for the highest positions of the land—the presidency and the vice presidency.

I am for lifting the ban for these two offices. Persons aspiring for these two positions, extremely sensitive as they are, should be brought under public scrutiny much earlier so that their misdeeds, bad habits and character flaws can immediately be unmasked and detected by the voters. They must be held accountable for their past and/or present sins.

I do not agree with those who say that candidates for these two top positions will become targets for smear campaigns. If they are really clean, they have nothing to fear. Besides, if they succeed in camouflaging their shady reputations, the country stands to lose so much more. Imagine, electing criminals by mistake to said offices. The repercussions are immeasurable.

The President suffers the repercussion of running again. Accusations are hurled against her of campaigning for the next elections in 2004. At least she bared her plans, no matter the consequences.

An incumbent president, in this case President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, will always be misinterpreted while performing her duties to keep the public informed of what she is doing for the people. All presidents do that. They owe it to us.

If President Macapagal's actions are deemed "campaigning this early for 2004," so be it. At least she is transparent enough about it. The others should also do the same instead of successfully hiding their past sins until election day is upon us, leaving the people ignorant and uninformed, only to find out too late that they have been deceived and taken for a ride again.

The media have a moral obligation and duty to perform in 2004. For once, let them be incorruptible. Its members must help flesh out the truth and not be paid to cover up.

—MANUEL L. MORATO,
Doña Consuelo Bldg.,
192-194 Tomas Morato
Ave., Quezon City

Concerned over voter disenfranchisement

RECAH Trinidad's June 19 column regarding the disenfranchisement of nearly 200 voters in two precincts in Barangay Vergara, Mandaluyong should concern everyone especially its former mayor, Benjamin Abalos, now the chair of the Commission on Elections.

The reported anomaly greatly matters to Bayan Muna as a grassroots political party. Bayan Muna as well as other political parties are forbidden by law to participate in the barangay election. But this ban does not prevent us from speaking out on the reported disenfranchisement of voters.

It is in barangay elections, specifically in those areas where there are strong people's organizations, that representatives and allies of the poor and oppressed have a fair chance of winning positions. In the country's electoral system where guns, goons and gold rule, the higher the government post, the slimmer the chance there is for the masses to get their representatives elected.

Unchecked, the disenfranchisement of voters in Barangay Vergara, Mandaluyong, will benefit and place in positions of power those who masterminded it. Two hundred disenfranchised voters is no small number in a barangay election.

It is good that Trinidad brought to the public's attention this fraudulent practice in the hometown of the new Comelec chair. Abalos should first clean his backyard. Heads should roll.

But the reported fraud in Barangay Vergara, Mandaluyong may just be the tip of the iceberg. The Comelec should look into similar and various forms of electoral fraud.

Supposedly non-partisan, barangay elections in reality are an extension of the power struggle for a grass-roots political base among traditional political parties backed by big business, landlords and other vested interests. Thus, it is no surprise that fraud and terrorism extend to this supposed nonpartisan exercise.

—NATHANAEL S. SANTIAGO,
secretary general, Bayan
Muna, 28 Magiting Rd.,
Teacher's Village, Diliman,
Quezon City

Proud of Siquijor

I AGREE with Bambi Harper who wrote in her column last June 11 about the sad state of the country's natural attractions which otherwise ought to make us proud to be Filipinos. I, for one, am aware of the care we ought to give our environment not only to attract tourists but for our own enjoyment, as well. That column, I should say, was an eye-opener for all of us.

I specially thank her for mentioning Siquijor as one potential tourist destination. Having lived in that island province for almost all my life (I was only away when I pursued my college degree and now for work), it made me proud to have a homeplace with white sand beaches, natural rock formations, underground caves, natural falls and springs, and beautiful landscapes perfectly made by nature. We even have Mt. Bandilaan, the highest peak in the province, which gives visitors a clear view of the whole island, indicating its borders and shores.

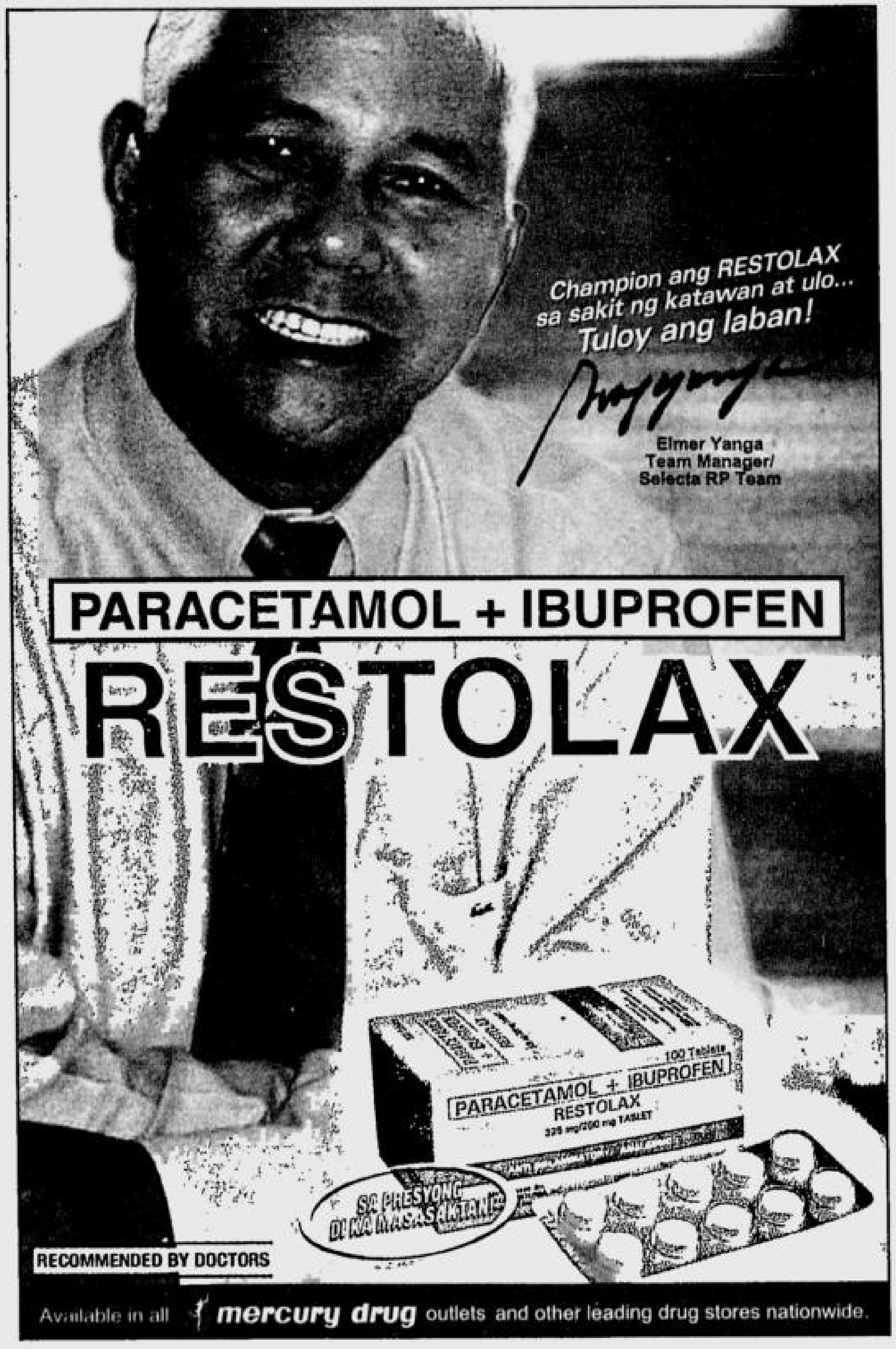
On the northern side of Siquijor, there are mangrove-rich shores with trees that are as old as 100 years. We also have the Lazi church and convent which have been preserved since the Spanish era. The former is one of the biggest and oldest in the country.

Of course, there are the warm and hospitable people, not to mention the very low crime rate in the province.

For an adventurer and nature lover, Siquijor is a haven. I wonder why our local TV stations repeatedly feature the "witchcraft," "love potion" and "black magic" in Siquijor which may possibly be nonexistent? Otherwise, as I jokingly tell my friends, we (Siquijodnons) should cast a spell on the Abu Sayyaf so that it would vanish or on Troy Montero so that he would be attracted to me. But what mediamen have focused on are generally not very attractive or enticing.

Harper is correct when she says that some of the landscape have been destroyed because of lime quarrying and, in some areas, negligence and carelessness. Some projects in the province are largely unnecessary and not in tune with nature and long-term sustainability.

—GAY THERESE C. MANGINSAY,
San Juan, Siquijor



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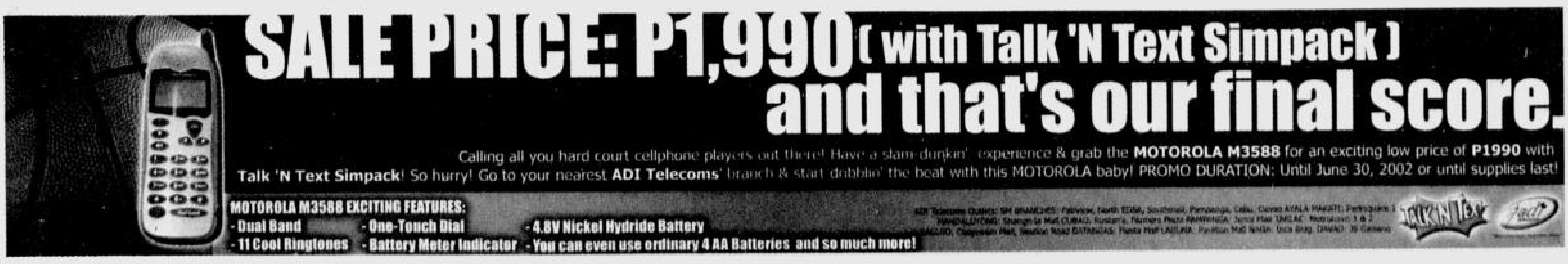

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Sabaya behind Martin killing

From page A1

launched a raid.

"If the soldiers open fire and come close, you should kill Martin," Aluk quoted Abu Sabaya as telling Lukman.

"Nang mamatay na si Martin, tumakbo na kami (When Martin died, we ran away)," Aluk added.

The captured bandit did not say on the videotape that he saw who shot Burnham.

The military earlier said that Lukman likely killed the American missionary before being killed himself.

The videotape also showed the bound Aluk describing how Sabaya was killed in the Sibuco battle. He also identified Abu Sabaya's personal effects, including his Oakley sunglasses and cell phone.

Burnham, an American missionary, and Edibora Yap, a Filipino nurse, were killed when Philippine troops tried to rescue them in Zamboanga del Norte on June 7. Burnham's wife, Gracia, was rescued.

There have been concerns that Martin Burnham and Yap were shot in the exchange of gunfire between Abu Sabaya's group and approaching soldiers.

But US officials earlier stressed that it was irrelevant who shot Burnham and that they held the Abu Sayyaf responsible for his death.

Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the Southern Command, said Aluk's admission had reassured his forces. "We are convinced that the bullets that hit Martin and Edibora did not come from the muzzles of our guns," he said.

The Burnhams and Yap were the last remaining hostages of the Abu Sayyaf's last kidnapping spree that began in May 2001.

With the loss of the hostages, the military intensified its pursuit of Abu Sabaya's band, culminating in a gunfight at sea on Friday in which the military said Sabaya was shot and fell into the water.

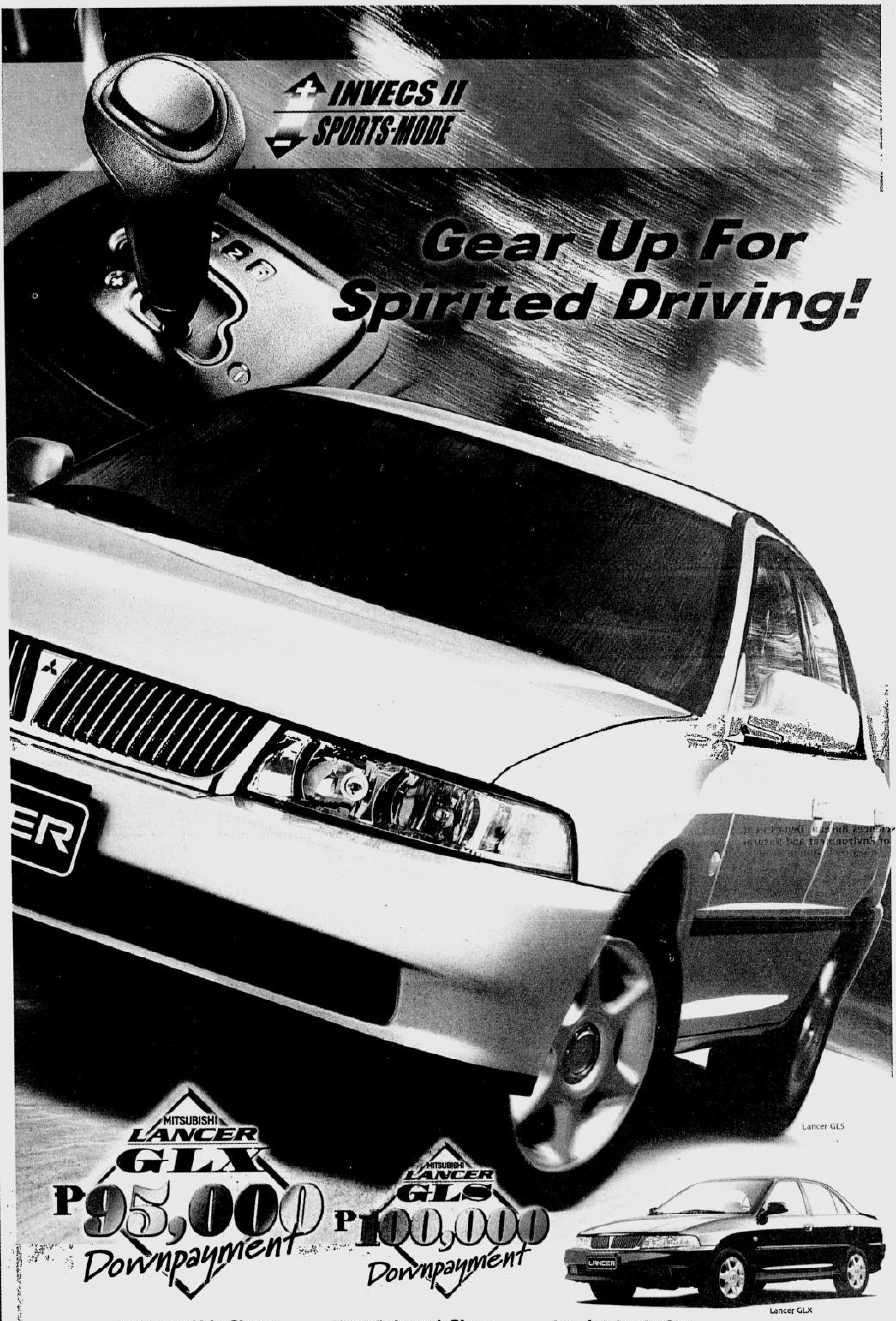
The military is still searching for the remains of Sabaya, whose real name is Aldam Tilao, in the waters off Zamboanga del Norte to fully confirm his death.

However, the military said that three Abu Sayyaf members captured in the sea battle confirmed that Sabaya was killed.

US military troops, deployed in Western Mindanao to help the anti-terror campaign, provided technical and surveillance assistance leading to the clash that claimed Sabaya's life but American soldiers did not take part in the actual combat.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has hailed the death of Sabaya and vowed to wipe out the rest of the Abu Sayyaf, a kidnapping gang with links to the al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden, suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

Another Abu Sayyaf faction is holding three Indonesian seamen hostage on the island of Jolo. ***With a report from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



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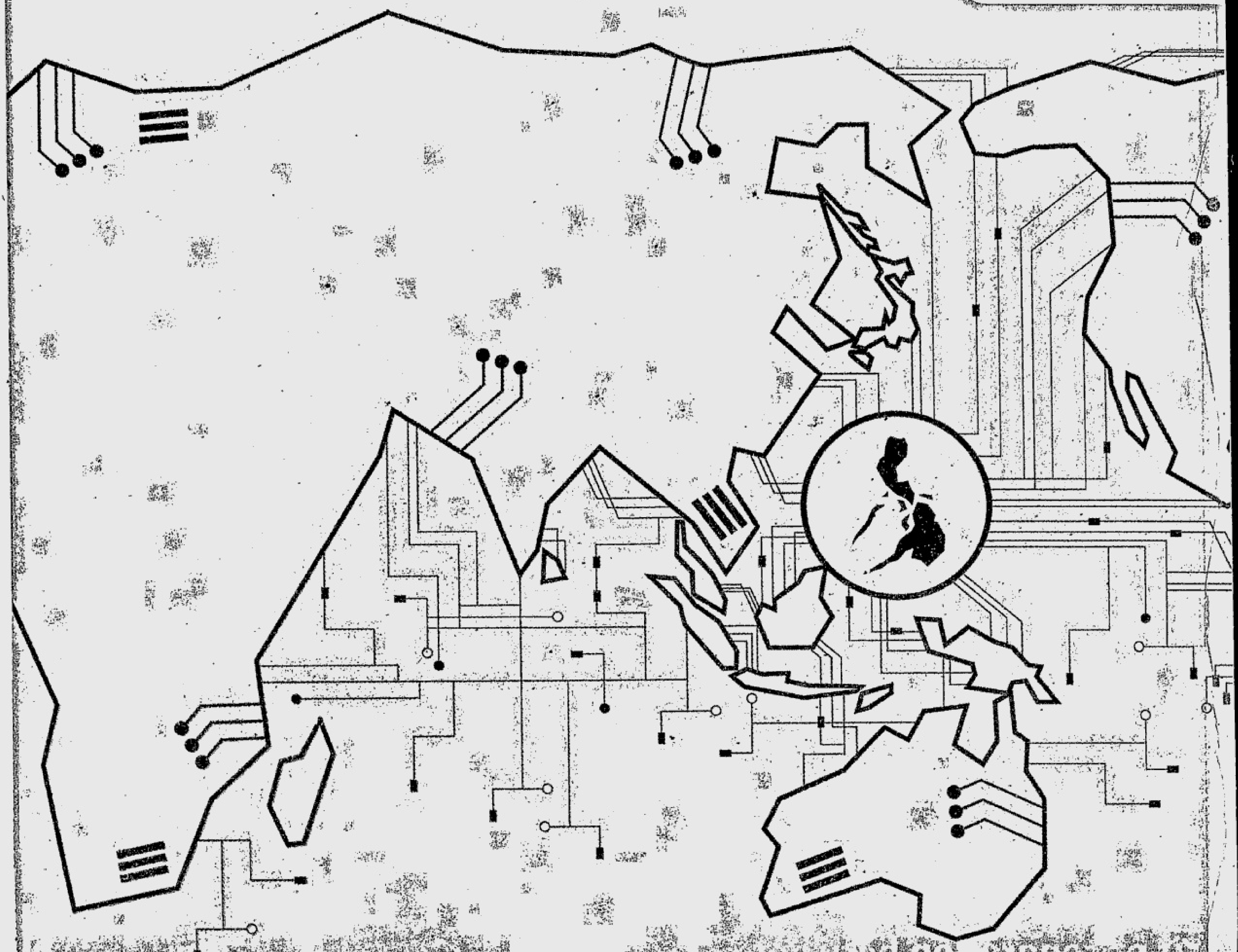

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Your contribution is vital to our country's social and economic growth. With our country's advantage in terms of highly skilled, professional and trainable human resource, our nation's progress as a global e-economy player will be reinforced.

I urge you to remain committed to the arduous task of improving the lives of our people. The task is daunting but with our concerted efforts, we will succeed in attaining our goals.

Congratulations and Mabuhay!

GMArroyo

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

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*O*ur warmest greetings to the management and staff of ePLDT VITRO™ Data Center on your certification as an ISO 9001:2000 company in May 2002.

It is heartening to note that a year and ten months after it started operations, ePLDT VITRO™ has already achieved its ISO Certification– becoming the first ISO-certified Internet Data Center in the Philippines. Indeed, with an ISO Certification, a company like VITRO™ can rightfully claim that its operational and quality standards as well as management practices are world-class. This achievement also signifies the company's commitment to consistently provide its clientele with the highest standards of quality, efficiency and reliability in its services- the way to go for any Filipino enterprise today to grow, prosper and progress while giving its customers good value for money.

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To ePLDT VITRO™ Data Center, our sincere congratulations and best wishes for success.

Mabuhay!

MAR ROXAS
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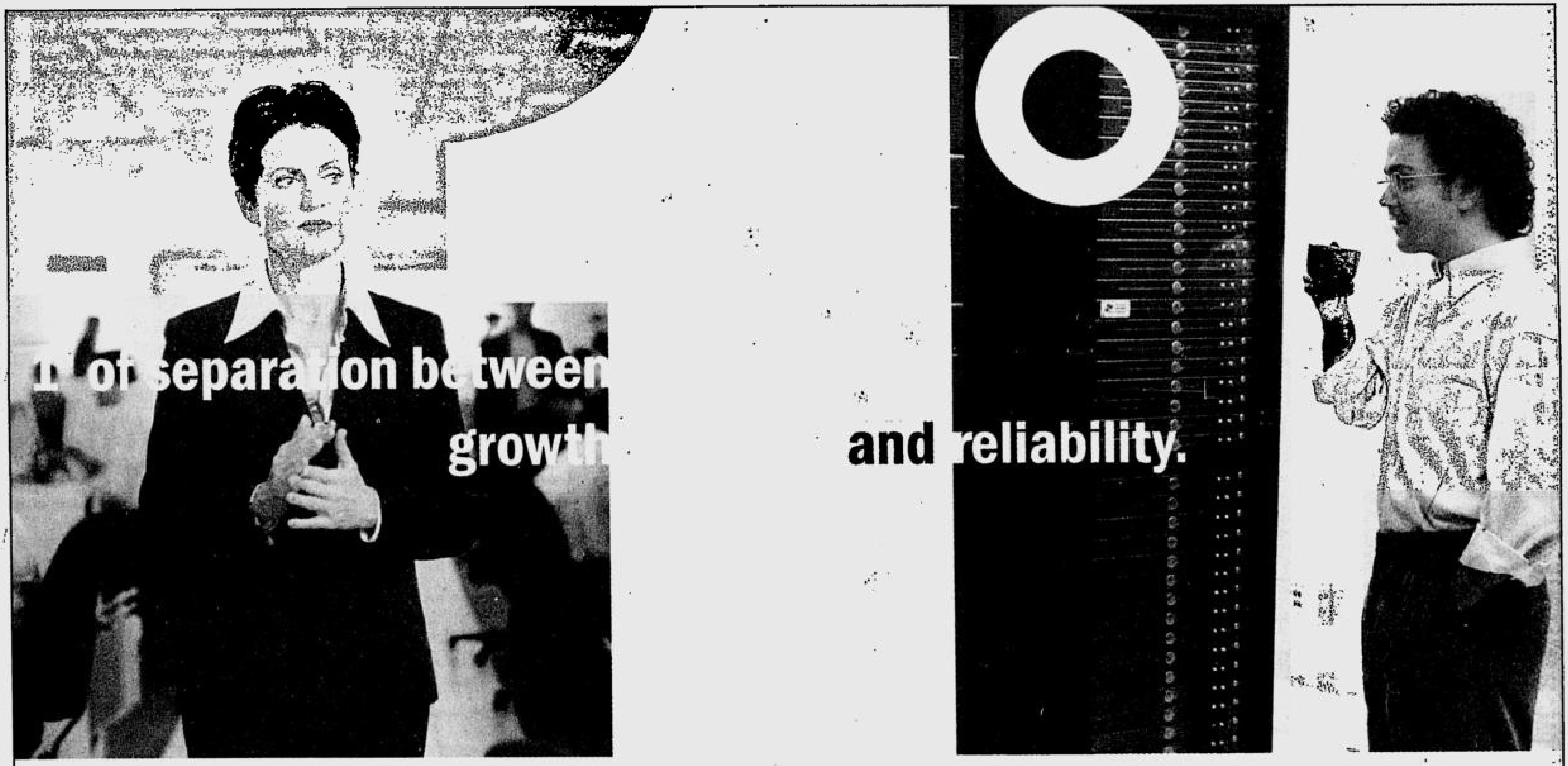

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It is my hope that this certification challenges you to aim even higher. Let us all never forget that in the race for excellence, there is no finish line.

My sincerest congratulations for this noteworthy achievement.

Very Truly Yours,

Manuel V. Pangilinan
President and CEO
PLDT Co.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Malaysia in flux after Mahathir flip-flops

KUALA LUMPUR—Both sides of Malaysian politics were in disarray Sunday when the fundamentalist Islamic opposition leader died just a day after Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad tearfully announced he was quitting and then dramatically changed his mind.

Fadzil Noor, Mahathir's main opponent and chief of the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party, died without regaining consciousness after recent heart bypass surgery.

Though Noor's passing could strengthen the government's strength ahead of increasingly anticipated early elections, there is growing speculation that Mahathir will not stay in power much longer following his surprise resignation flip-flop on Saturday.

Mahathir, 76, who has led this Southeast Asian nation for 21 years and is seen as irreplaceable by most of his countrymen, met with his ministers before quietly leaving Sunday on a previously unannounced 10-day vacation to Naples, Italy.

Mahathir has not appeared in public since dropping a resignation bombshell in the closing speech to his annual party conference.

Before a national television audience, Mahathir said he was giving up all his posts in the United Malays National Organization as well as the governing coalition it heads, the National Front.

The National Front chair is traditionally Malaysia's prime minister. The news shocked delegates who had been urging Mahathir to lead them in general elections a year early in 2003 to win back ground lost to Noor's opposition at the last poll in 1999.

Mahathir, visibly sagging at the podium, was mobbed by government and party leaders but said over an open microphone that he had decided to leave and indicated that he had been in power long enough.

Senior leaders took him to a back room. The deputy prime minister, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, appeared after an hour and said Mahathir had been persuaded to stay on. Hundreds of delegates cheered and applauded.

However, Abdullah's assurances did little to convince many Malaysians that Mahathir would not leave office soon—perhaps before the elections his party is counting on him to win.

Raja Ahmad Raja Zainuddin, an Umno leader from northern Perak state, said members hoped Mahathir would continue to lead "for a long time, but we also have to be realistic."

Chandra Muzzafar, a former opposition leader and one of the sharpest political analysts in the country, said the ruling party was being forced to start making election plans without Mahathir. *AP*

MAHATHIR stuns nation with resignation but later agrees to stay on. AFP

Israel retakes Palestinian city, calls up reservists

JERUSALEM—Israeli armor rumbled into another Palestinian city on Sunday and the Army said it was calling up a brigade of reservists as part of what it described as a "war against terrorism."

Palestinian witnesses said about 60 Israeli vehicles, including tanks and armored personnel carriers, pushed into Qalqilya in the West Bank before sunrise and took over several buildings. No resistance was reported.

The return to Qalqilya, which occurred several days after Israeli forces ended an operation in the city, followed a threat by Amos Yaron, director general of Israel's defense ministry, to launch a "crushing offensive" until Palestinian suicide bombings stopped.

The violence—and debate within the US administration over what Palestinians should be required to do to win the statehood they seek in the West Bank and Gaza—has led President George W. Bush to put off a speech charting road map for peace.

The Army tightened its grip on several West Bank cities on Saturday, in an offensive which Palestinian officials have said is aimed at toppling the Palestinian Authority.

"Due to the security situation, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) is calling up a brigade of reservists. The call-up begins on Sunday," an Army statement said.

"The reservists will undergo training and will then join IDF regular forces in the war against Palestinian terrorism."

Israel Radio said several thousand reservists would be mobilized for at least a month.

The army's reoccupation of Palestinian West Bank areas in April and May led to the arrest of hundreds of militants and extensive destruction of civilian infrastructure, but did not stop Palestinian attacks after the troops withdrew.

Responding to the killing of 31 Israelis in two suicide bombings in Jerusalem and an attack on a Jewish settlement last week, Israel said it would retake and hold land under Palestinian control as long as attacks continued.

"We have to take much more massive action than we have until now. If this means entering the territories and staying there for a long time then we will have to consider it," Yaron told Israel Radio on Saturday. *Reuters*

MEN search for bodies in the village of Changireh that was completely destroyed by a powerful earthquake that hit northern and western Iran on June 22. AP

Dazed Iranians bury quake victims

ABDAREH, Iran—Mournful wails echoed from a hilltop cemetery Sunday as dazed villagers gathered at dawn to bury victims of an earthquake that flattened villages in northwestern Iran, killing at least 220 people.

State-run Iranian media lowered the death toll in the remote quake zone from earlier estimates of 500 or more. An official from Iran's Red Crescent relief organization told state-run radio that earlier reports of the number of casualties from Saturday's quake were wrong.

The official, identified only by his last name, Sahraie, said there was no figure for the number of injured. Official Iranian media had reported Saturday that more than 1,600 people were injured. Quoting other Red Crescent officials, the radio said that at least 1,000 people had been injured.

The epicenter of the magnitude-6 quake, which left thousands homeless, was in the town of Bou'in-Zahra in Qazvin province, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

The quake struck at 7:30 a.m., when most people were still in their homes of brick, stone and mud.

Among the hardest-hit places was the tiny village of Abdareh, about 225 km west of Tehran. The quake toppled Abdareh's mosque, demolished 40 homes and killed at least 20 people.

At a cemetery overlooking the village, survivors huddled in groups, most covered in dust and dazed with grief. Men, women and children wailed as they placed the dead in rows of graves carved in the earth by bulldozers.

"There is nothing left to live for," cried Majid Torabi, 16, who lay his head in the dirt beside the freshly dug graves of his parents.

"One moment they were alive and with me, and the next moment the ground shook and everything got dark. I don't know what to do anymore," Torabi said, beating his head and chest in grief. *AP*

Mayors of Colombian state resign amid rebel threats

BOGOTA, Colombia—The mayors in the western Colombian state of Antioquia resigned en masse after receiving threats from rebels that they would be killed if they did not quit.

An anti-rebel paramilitary group, however, reportedly warned that if mayors in the eastern state of Arauca resigned because of guerrilla threats, they would be "declared military targets."

Municipal officials across this South American country have been the latest to feel the pressures of Colombia's war after the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, this month threatened them in an attempt to eliminate local authority in rural areas.

Orlando Giraldo, a mayor of the Antioquia town of Guatape, read a communique Saturday announcing his resignation and those of the other 22 mayors in the state because of the threats.

Antioquia, a mountainous state northwest of the capital Bogota, has borne the brunt of much of the fighting and kidnappings associated with Colombia's war.

In April, FARC rebels kidnapped Antioquia Gov. Guillermo Gaviria and former Defense Minister Gilberto Echeverri Mejia as they led a peace march in a rural part of the state. They remain rebel captives.

Gilberto Toro, president of the Federation of Municipalities, said mayors in oil-rich eastern Arauca state have been warned by the paramilitaries that they would be attacked if they abandoned their offices because of the rebel threats.

"In Arauca, the self-defense forces (paramilitaries) have given notice that the mayors who resign as a consequence of the threats from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia would be declared military targets," Toro said.

The Arauca mayors planned to meet on Monday with President Andres Pastrana to tender their resignations. *AP*

WILD ANIMAL AUCTION AP

Giraffes huddle in a pen during viewing time prior to the wildlife auction in the Unfolozi Game Park on June 22. A crowd of nearly 2,000 private game reserve owners, tourists with children and the odd Texas millionaire wandered among the huge pens, inspecting the hundreds of animals up for fierce bid at the annual auction held by the parks board of South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal province.

50 Maoist rebels killed in Nepal

KATMANDU, Nepal—At least 50 Maoist rebels were gunned down in a clash with government soldiers in western Nepal, defense officials said Sunday.

"We estimate that at least 50 rebels were killed in the clashes with our soldiers at Khara village on Thursday," Defense Ministry spokesperson Bhupendra Poudel said.

The area is about 400 km west of Nepal's capital, Katmandu.

Poudel said the casualty estimate was based on traces of blood found at the scene of the fighting and marks of bodies being dragged away. He was unable to say whether any bodies were recovered.

Casualty reports cannot be independently verified, as gunbattles often occur in remote mountain areas closed by the authorities to outsiders. The rebels, in hiding, have no formal spokespersons and generally do not make comments. *AP*

Leader of Malay opposition dies

KUALA LUMPUR—Fadzil Noor, the leader of Malaysia's opposition Islamic fundamentalist party, died Sunday after failing to regain consciousness following heart bypass surgery two weeks ago, hospital officials said.

The death throws Malaysian politics into deeper uncertainty, coming a day after Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad announced on national television that he was resigning, then reversed himself after supporters begged him to stay and lead his party into elections against the fundamentalists.

Fadzil, 65, underwent nearly five hours of bypass surgery on June 10. In May, he was hospitalized for five days after a bout of what officials of his Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party said was hypoglycemia, or abnormally low blood sugar levels.

Fadzil's condition had reportedly stabilized earlier in the week, but he took a turn for the worse and died Sunday morning.

"I can confirm that he is dead," a spokesperson at the National University of Malaysia Hospital in Kuala Lumpur said on condition of anonymity.

Zulkifli Sulong, a party official, said that he received word from the hospital that Fadzil died Sunday morning. Another party official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Fadzil's body would be flown later in the day from Kuala Lumpur to his home town of Alor Setar, northern Malaysia, for burial.

Abdul Hadi Awang, the party's deputy president, will assume Fadzil's duties, said Hatta Ramli, a senior party official. Hadi is likely to be appointed acting president over the next few days. The party would elect a new president at its congress next year.

Fadzil's death is a setback to the fundamentalists, who have been under pressure since Sept. 11 when their pro-Taliban statements alienated many Malaysians and strengthened the standing of Mahathir's party, the United Malays National Organization. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Ann Landers; 83

CHICAGO—Ann Landers, the columnist whose snappy, plainspoken and timely advice helped millions of readers deal with everything from birth to death, died at age 83. The death Saturday of Landers, whose real name was Esther Lederer, was announced by the Chicago Tribune, publisher of her column. Landers died of multiple myeloma at her Chicago apartment. Her column first appeared in print Oct. 16, 1955, in the Chicago Sun-Times. In 1993, she was the world's most widely syndicated columnist, appearing in more than 1,200 newspapers worldwide with 90 million readers daily. Her twin sister, Pauline, followed her into the profession as writer of the Dear Abby column. Psychology Today once gave her credit for likely having more influence on the way people work out their problems than any other person of her era. "All the column means to me is an opportunity to do good in the world," she said in a 1993 interview with that magazine. *AP*

Car bombs rattle Spain

MADRID—Powerful explosions rattled cities across Spain during a European summit that concluded Saturday, leaving little doubt that the Basque separatist group ETA has survived government crackdowns and can strike at will almost anywhere in the country. Four bombs, some concealed in stolen vehicles, and a package of explosives went off in three resorts on the Mediterranean Costa del Sol, and in the northern cities of Saragossa and Santander. The blasts injured 10 people, including several tourists and a Spanish policeman. Callers claiming to speak for ETA gave authorities up to 50 minutes advance warning to evacuate danger zones each time. The attacks occurred despite a nationwide security mobilization for an EU summit, with military units on maximum alert and police roadblocks clogging highways across the country. *AP*

Anthrax in mail was fresh

NEW YORK—Scientists have concluded that anthrax sent through the mail last year was less than two years old, leading investigators to believe that whoever sent the germs could make more, according to a published report. "It's modern," a government official told The New York Times in a story to be published Sunday. "It was grown, and therefore it can be grown again and again." The age of the anthrax that killed five people and sickened more than a dozen last fall gives credence to the theory that the person who put anthrax-laced letters in the mail is connected to a microbiology laboratory and may have used new equipment, government officials who spoke on condition of anonymity told the newspaper. Establishing the age casts doubt on a theory that the mailer obtained an old laboratory sample of anthrax from a strain identified in 1981, the Times reported. *AP*

Martial arts director dies

HONG KONG—Veteran martial arts filmmaker Chang Cheh, mentor to kung fu film superstar Bruce Lee and Hollywood action director John Woo, has died in a hospital at the age of 79, newspapers reported Sunday. Chang died of pulmonary disease on Saturday morning, according to several Chinese-language newspapers in Hong Kong. Born in 1923 in mainland China, Chang was one of the most distinguished filmmakers in Hong Kong during the 1960s and 1970s. *AP*

US bishops carry out abuse policy; review boards set up

NEW YORK—America's Roman Catholic bishops spent the past week meeting with priests, recruiting parishioners for review boards and taking sex abusers off the job as they started implementing their ambitious policy to end the church's molestation crisis.

Yet even as Catholic leaders began to clean house, outside pressure from law enforcement authorities was building.

Some bishops returned home from the Dallas summit where the policy was approved and promptly went beyond the action plan, which requires bishops to remove abusive priests from public ministry.

The 10 bishops of Minnesota and the Dakotas said they would hire an outside auditor to review whether they're in compliance with the policy. Archbishop Patrick Flores of San Antonio pledged to not only oust molesters from parish duty but also to ask the Vatican to defrock all of them—which is optional.

Civil authorities also stepped up their investigation of abuse in the church.

Prosecutors began reviewing the cases of 15 priests accused of abuse in San Diego County. Massachusetts became the ninth state with grand juries investigating clerical molestation. And a judge unsealed court files on how the Joliet, Illinois, Diocese handled claims against its clergy. The files show Bishop Joseph Imesch, believed to be the first bishop to publicly suggest Boston Cardinal Bernard Law resign for his handling of priests accused of abuse, had himself moved an accused priest to a new parish. Imesch said the diocese was cooperating with authorities. *AP*

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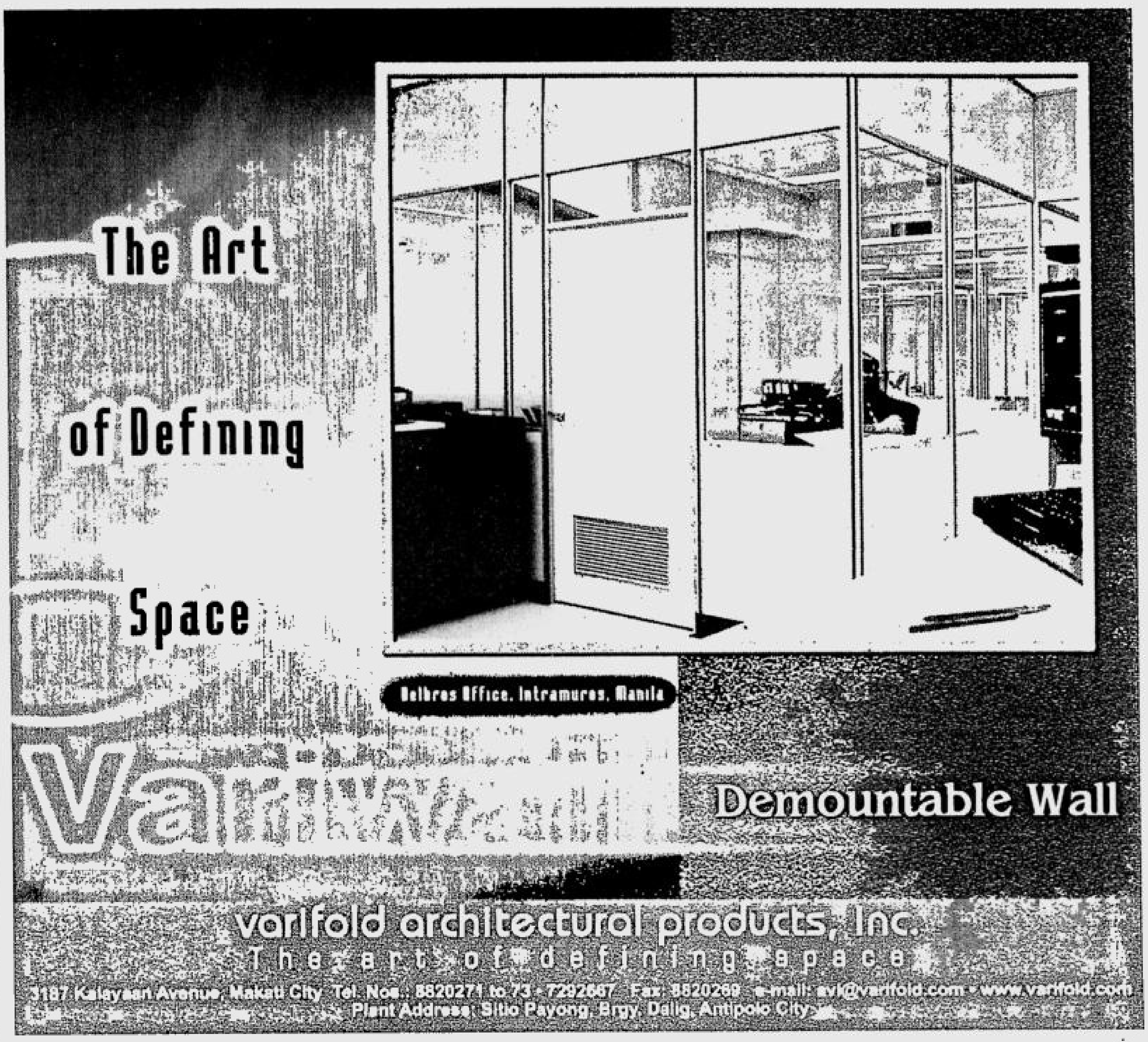
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(3) Rosemarie L. Pabalan
Chestnut NBO

(4) Lilia T. Adina
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Federalism gains nationwide support

DAVAO CITY—The campaign for a federal form of government snowballed into a nationwide call for change from the current system, as more and more people's organizations and local politicians join the national Movement for Federal Philippines.

Initiated in Southern Mindanao, the campaign for Federal Philippines now reaches the Bicol region, Cordillera, Cagayan Valley, Visayas, Northern Mindanao, Central Luzon and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Most of the groups share sentiments on the unequal distribution of wealth being practiced by the national government.

They said federalism would be a better alternative to liberating the Philippines.

The movement's convenors said the provinces and cities outside of Manila have always been at the losing end of bargaining for better services.

The Movement for Federal Philippines was organized a year ago by non-government organizations in Mindanao and civil society groups.

"It is being fuelled by the dynamic spirit of volunteerism and positive activism characteristic of development NGO involvement and commitment," said Rey Teves, convenor and secretary general of Kusog Mindanao, a group committed to the promotion of peace and development in Mindanao.

Teves, however, admitted some of those who joined the federal movement were still loose groups, and that the campaign was still weak in Central and Northern Luzon.

"If we look at realities—these two areas are extensions of Metro Manila. They are benefiting from the expansion and growth of Metro Manila," Teves said.

He said some 20 regional convenors and core advocates from other parts of the country will finalize the campaign strategies and activities of the movement for the next two years.

The movement has tapped former University of the Philippines president Jose Abueva to finalize the movement's primer.

Abueva's group recently completed the draft of a Constitution of the Federal Republic of the Philippines, which is now used as a discussion paper for regional conferences. ***Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Eastern section of the country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers becoming widespread rains over Northeastern Mindanao. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI30° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 22° Lo 13°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 36° Lo 27°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 21°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 26° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 26°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/24/02

MNLF group that declared war secluded

COTABATO CITY—A Moro National Liberation Front leader and thousands of his armed followers kept themselves secluded amid suggestions from their comrades to stay sober while a team is being formed to investigate the alleged military attack on an MNLF farming village in Datu Piang, Maguindanao, on June 11.

An MNLF insider said the threat of a renewed war against the government can be restrained only through a traditional Muslim dialogue for peace.

The threat was made by the chair of the MNLF's Western Kutawato State Revolutionary Committee, Abdulrahman Tutin alias Commander Basco, who said his group of about 2,000 members no longer recognizes the 1996 peace pact the MNLF signed with the government.

An insider said the payment of "blood money" is part of Muslim culture among Filipinos involved in resolving vendetta killings. He did not say how much would it take to make Tutin retract his threat and allow his men to remain in the mainstream of society.

Tutin lost a son and a dozen of his men when Army troopers allegedly attacked an MNLF farming village in Barangay Kitango on June 11, a day after Brig. Gen. Generoso Senga assumed his post as the new commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division.

Senga said the soldiers, tracking down suspected members of a kidnap-for-ransom gang, were first fired upon by MNLF guards "so they had to defend themselves by returning fire."

In an emergency meeting in Malacañang on Friday, Eduardo Ermita, presidential assistant on the peace process, said the government-MNLF joint monitoring committee had agreed to form a group that will investigate the alleged attack. ***Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

GMA releases ₱17M in tobacco taxes

SAN FERNANDO CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the release of P17 million out of the P23 million allocated for the four Ilocos provinces from funds from the tobacco excise tax (Republic Act 7171).

The President made the announcement during Friday's closed-door regional development council-regional peace and order council (RDC-RPOC) meeting at the provincial capitol here.

Local government executives in the region have long been pushing for the release of their provinces' RA 7171 share for 2001 and 2002 to finance farm modernization and irrigation projects that would mitigate the ill effects of the approaching El Niño weather phenomenon.

Repair work on three major bridges to the north–Quirino, Amburayan and Dumalandan –which were damaged by Typhoon Feria last year, has been fast-tracked and will start next year, instead of in 2005, the President said.

The President also ordered the allocation of P50 million out of the P100-million budget intended for the reconstruction of the Quirino Bridge in Banaoang, Ilocos Sur, for the upgrading and expansion of the Laoag International Airport in Ilocos Norte. ***Gia Damaso-Dumo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Anti-car theft drive in C. Luzon stepped up

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Central Luzon is not a haven for car thieves, police officials claimed even as they reported the recovery of 79 vehicles stolen in Metro Manila since January this year.

"We have recovered so many stolen vehicles in the last six months but this high turnout does not mean that car thieves have made Central Luzon their base," Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, regional police director, told reporters here on Tuesday.

He said the high recovery rate was the result of a "massive campaign against car thieves."

Of the 79 vehicles, at least 29 were turned over to their registered owners. The rest were impounded at the regional traffic management office here and provincial police offices in the region.

It said the anti-car theft drive led to the arrest of six suspects and the filing of six cases against 14 suspects.

Neither the syndicates nor their leaders were identified. No information was reported on the extent of their operations in Metro Manila or in Central Luzon. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

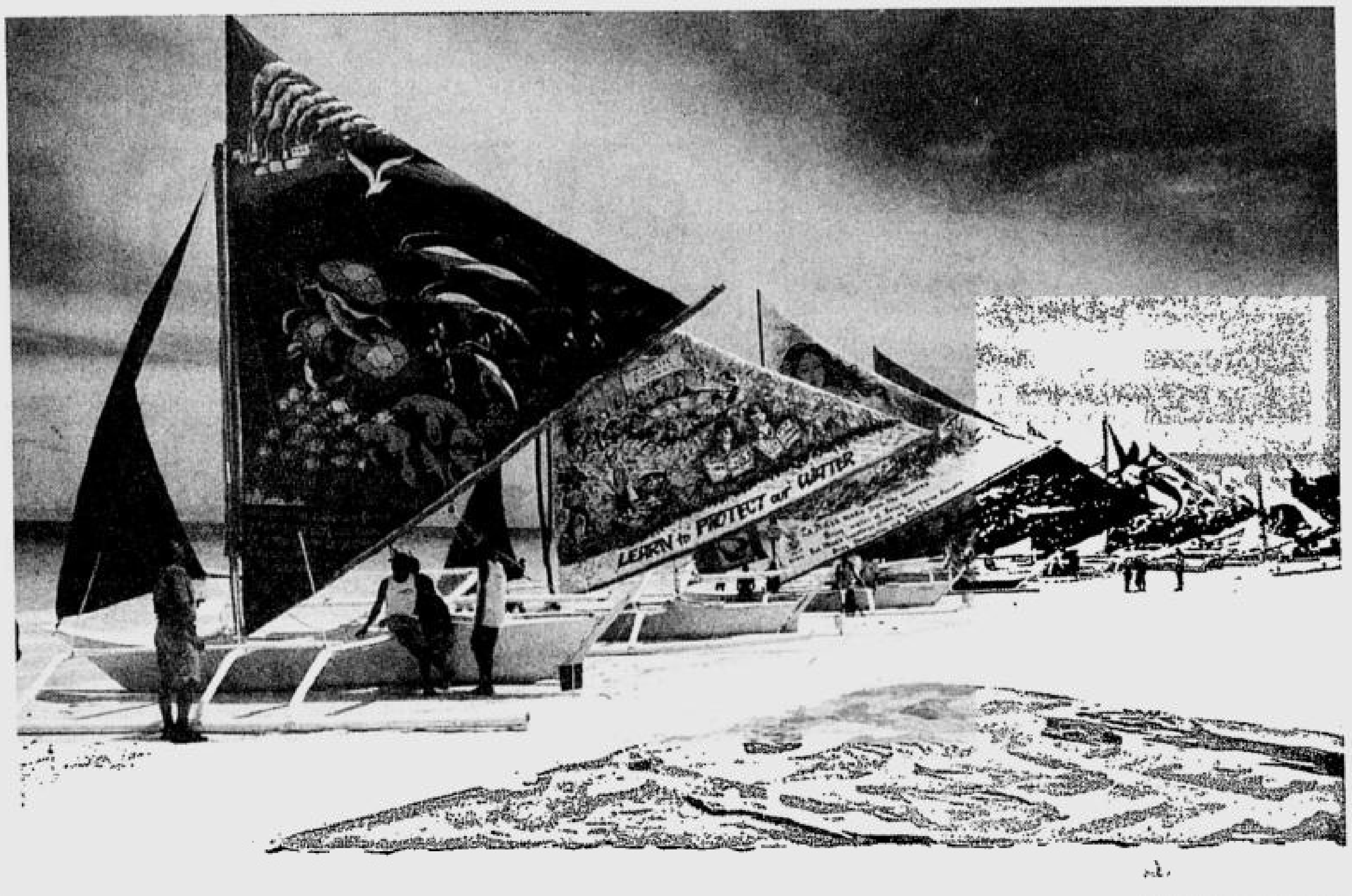


PHOTO COURTESY OF DENR

SAIL DESIGN
Lined up on the shores of Boracay are boats fitted with sails that took part in the first Gallery of the Sea: Water Arts Festival, a contest hosted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Suspected 'jueteng' lord guns for village post

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Don't look now but a suspected jueteng lord, whom the police had tagged as the biggest financier of the illegal numbers game in Central Luzon, is running for barangay captain of this city's biggest commercial district.

Jesuslito Supan, city director of the Department of Interior and Local Government, confirmed the candidacy of Melchor Caluag, also known here as "Ngo-Ngo," for next month's barangay elections.

Caluag earlier lost in his bid to get a seat in the city council where Mario Garcia, another suspected jueteng operator, is a member.

He is challenging reelectionist Oscar Guintu of Barangay Dolores, also Central Luzon's commercial capital.

According to Supan, Caluag is among 105 candidates vying to be village chiefs of this city's 34 barangays.

Caluag sat among these hopefuls during Saturday's peace covenant for an honest, orderly and peaceful election.

He represents a breed of Pampanga politicians with supposed involvement in jueteng.

Before he joined politics, Garcia and the wife and son of suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda—Lilia, who is now a provincial board member, and Dennis, who replaced his mother as Lubao mayor—have ventured into politics.

There are no laws banning politicians of similar backgrounds to seek public office, it was learned.

Caluag, whose jueteng bases are reportedly in this city and Angeles and in 10 Pampanga towns, is out on bail on charges of illegal gambling. He was arrested in April last year.

A jueteng whistleblower, still in the custody of the National Bureau of Investigation, said Caluag makes P10 million a day from the illegal numbers game in Angeles City alone.

Sources said Caluag's jueteng network alone plus his reputed benevolence for poor residents would make him a runaway winner. The prospect, however, scares some city officials.

Caluag, orphaned early in life, used to be Pineda's *rebisador* (one who reviews bets). Sources said he began his operations when his former boss lay low during the anti-jueteng drive of the Ramos administration. ***Tonette Orejas with a report from Bert Basa, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Pangasinan laity to join movement against illegal gambling

DAGUPAN CITY—Armed with a booklet titled the "Evils of Gambling," the Catholic Church's lay leaders here will go to the communities to persuade villagers to stop betting on the illegal numbers game jueteng.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz of the Lingayen-Dagupan archdiocese said the campaign against jueteng will be based on the Tenth Commandment which is "Do not to covet thy neighbor's goods."

"We must not aspire for the money of our neighbors, who also bet, by betting on jueteng," said Cruz, past president of the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

The booklet was prepared in English by students of the St. Mary seminary here. It was translated into Filipino and Panggalatok, the local dialect of Pangasinan. It will be distributed to all communities covered by the archdiocese.

According to Cruz, jueteng is widespread in central Pangasinan. "It stops in some places for some days, then returns again," he said.

A survey on jueteng in April showed that the illegal numbers game is prevalent in all towns covered by the archdiocese.

Another survey is scheduled next week, and the results will be forwarded to local governments and the office of Interior Secretary Jose Lina.

Cruz said he would ask the archdioceses of Urdaneta and Alaminos cities, which cover eastern and western Pangasinan, respectively, to wage a campaign against jueteng "so that our action will be province-wide."

In a statement, Cruz said even in gambling, the discrimination between the rich and the poor is obvious. "The rich legally play in the casinos and the poor illegally play jueteng," he said.

He asked: "If jueteng is immoral, how can casinos be moral?"

However, Cruz clarified that he was not for the legalization of the numbers game but for the "casinos to go." Casinos are as immoral as jueteng, he said.

"If jueteng is immoral, casinos are certainly much more immoral. If it is wrong for the poor to gamble their money, how could it be right for the rich to gamble their big money?" he said. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

El Niño blessing in disguise for Mt. Pinatubo crater-lake

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The El Niño phenomenon, characterized by delayed rains and prolonged drought, will avert the expected "critical rise" of water level at Mt. Pinatubo's crater-lake, a Department of Public Works and Highways official said.

Pedro Terciño, chief engineer of the DPWH's Mount Pinatubo Rehabilitation Project Management Office, said delays are snagging efforts to improve the canal built there by about 100 Aeta workers last September.

But Terciño said the unusual weather episode would give government engineers more time to finish the improvements.

"El Niño will most likely not cause the critical level expected during the rainy reason," he told the INQUIRER.

The delays, running now for four months, had been due to the inability of the contractor to conduct geo-technical studies on the areas around the 3-km wide crater-lake.

The crater-lake formed right after the 1991 eruptions, which blew off the summit of the volcano.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER from DPWH sources showed that the contractor called off the plans to do soil boring tests around the crater.

An official of the contracting firm, in a March 1 letter to Public Works Undersecretary Teodoro Encarnacion, said it was "not feasible" to bring a drilling rig to the summit due to narrow trails and steep slopes.

The official said the activity would endanger the lives of the company's personnel.

The company proposed to use instead a seismic refraction equipment that was handy, the letter showed.

According to Terciño, the DPWH will bid out again the contract. Other civil engineering companies, however, are not interested in the project.

The DPWH had not considered siphoning off the water, which geologist Kelvin Rodolfo had suggested.

Terciño said the department might just rely on the Japanese consulting firm Nippon Koei to do the geotechnical studies.

None of this was done before the canal was carved last September. Terciño said the "emergency trenching" was necessary to be able to release the water that rose to a critical level.

The catastrophic breaching and the resulting flash floods and lahar flows, which the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology expected, did not occur.

A small volume of water flowed out of the trench, indicating that the project was a failure.

"The outflow canal of the Mt. Pinatubo crater-lake was completed not in accordance with the designed waterway dimensions. The resulting outflow was drastically reduced from 4,180 cubic meters per hour to 417 cubic meter per hour," a DPWH monitoring report prepared by Terciño last November showed.

In Ilocos Norte, agriculture officials have mapped out the action plan against El Niño but they need at least P35 million to implement it.

The province was placed under a state of calamity last month to facilitate the release of provincial calamity funds to affected farmers.

But Ilocos Norte Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said no calamity funds have been released. He said damage in the farms has not yet reached "alarming" proportions. ***With a report from Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

US 'eye in sky' aided RP troops in Zambo chase

From page A1

Philippine Navy's Special Warfare Group commander Rosauro Sarmiento.

The Navy dispatched Lt. JG Gilbert Villareal's 12-member team, while Aragones and his three men served as backup.

"Actually the initial report that I received was that there were only three bandits, including Sabaya. So I just brought with me 11 men," Villareal told the Inquirer.

A conference was held to determine such details as who will board Sabaya's boat, who will be the sniper, and who will make the first shot, Villareal said.

"It was a well-made plan for three targets," he said.

Sabaya's pumpboat

Sabaya and his men boarded a two-engine pumpboat at about 3:45 a.m. on Friday, at Mantibog Point in Sibuco.

Unknown to them, three speedboats carrying 16 commandos—four from the Marines and 12 from the Navy's Special Warfare Group—were already cruising 3.5 kilometers offshore.

The commandos were led by Querubin, deputy commander of the 2nd Marine Brigade and graduate of Class 1979 of the Philippine Military Academy. Querubin was named to head the operation by Col. Juancho Sabban, deputy chief of Marine Forces South.

"It was from the start a project of Colonel Sabban," a source said.

The three speedboats managed to get close to Sabaya's pumpboat because the bandits could not "hear the approach as their engines were noisy."

Some of the commandos were wearing night vision goggles, giving them the advantage over the Abu Sayyaf who were navigating in the dark.

Using his goggles, Villareal saw that there were more than three persons on board.

"But the sniper's focus was only on Sabaya, from the time he boarded the pumpboat until the time we rammed their vessel," he said.

Since there were seven men on board, Villareal said he decided to ram down the pumpboat with their speedboat. "It was like a direct attack," he said.

Villareal recalled that when they were five to 10 meters away from Sabaya's pumpboat, the bandits sensed their presence and fired at them. The government troops fired back.

"I didn't order our boat to stop, but we rammed into their pumpboat," he said in Filipino. The bandits were thrown off their boat.

Krypton flashlights

With the help of Krypton flashlights, Aragones said he saw Sabaya and two others get hit.

He and Villareal said all the troops who were with them hit Sabaya.

"Their boat sank under our speedboat. Sabaya, in a black sweatshirt, suddenly surfaced; he was bloodied and tried to dive back into the water when somebody fired and hit him in the back. Another shot rang out and he was hit in the head this time," Aragones recounted.

Villareal said his snipers finished off Sabaya when the bandit leader tried to swim away. "Our snipers were focused on him. I know that he was hit with bullets coming from M-14 and M-16 rifles. He was fatally hit in the back and head."

Villareal said Sabaya floated "for a few seconds, but we did not immediately get his body because there were four others who were alive and were swimming away from us."

Villareal said Sabaya had been seated in the middle of the pumpboat.

Two of those captured after the clash—Abdurahman Ismael, alias Abu Sahirin, and Adznar Aluk, alias Toto Aluk—supported the military's claims in a video presented to the media yesterday morning.

Aluk said he and Sahirin (the pumpboat operator) served as rear lookouts, while those killed—Ibno Hajar and Abu Musa—served as Sabaya's front security.

Two others—Tommy Rahim, alias Abu Nadim, and Hassan Samsi—were on the same boat serving as lookouts.

"We were surprised when we saw a speedboat approaching us. Then there was gunfire. The speedboat rammed us and we all went overboard," Sahirin said in Filipino.

He said he saw Sabaya seriously wounded as Musa and Hajar kept on firing to protect Sabaya.

Aluk recalled seeing their leader trying to swim away, "but he was already bloodied. When he tried to swim, he was shot in the back."

Green, red, black

The officer who requested anonymity said one of the armed men was wearing a green shirt, another wore red, while a third—Sabaya—sported a black shirt.

"Our men were positive. No one could survive that volley of fire," the officer said.

After the exchange of fire, the three speedboats circled the battle scene, retrieving three survivors initially and fishing off a fourth one later.

"Si Dam, si Dam?" the soldiers interrogated the four bandits fished out of the water, referring to Aldam Tilao, the real name of Sabaya.

In Malacañang, acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said that there was no reason to doubt that Sabaya was dead.

"The testimonies from the Armed Forces and the four bandits are very strong," Afable said.

The Palace is not giving the military any deadline to retrieve Sabaya's remains, he added.

Missing body

But Sabaya's missing body continued to hound the military.

As the search entered its 48th hour at around 4:30 a.m. yesterday, Commodore Ernesto de Leon, Naval Forces South commander, told the Inquirer that he was "still hopeful that Sabaya's body will surface. Maybe until 8 a.m."

But shortly before noon, Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, Southcom chief, said there was "no development yet."

"Until now, Sabaya is still 1,500 feet underwater," Carolina said. "We are hoping that he is going to float."

De Leon said recovering Sabaya's remains was a top priority "for the peace of mind of the Filipino people" and ordered a widening in the scope of the search.

But Aragones and Villareal said they were "100-percent sure" that Sabaya was dead.

Aragones told the Inquirer that even before Sabaya's group boarded the pumpboat, "I already knew that it was them."

"This was based on long intelligence work," he said, adding that he had trailed Sabaya's group since last year.

Despite the absence of Sabaya's body, Navy and Marine officers and enlisted personnel received Gold Cross medals "for gallantry in action" on Saturday.

Those who got medals were Querubin, Capt. Jessie Jovette Cerbo, Aragones, Villareal, Ens. Christopher Salimbangon, M/Sgt. Ronnie Tadena, T/Sgt. Gerardo Pasardan Jr., S/Sgt. Breganer Abidin, ET Leonito Fermin, PO3s Willy Bulawan, Victor Escalante and Constante Bulosan, F1ENs Jonathan Gayas and Philip Pili, S1UNs Marciano Angga, Benjie Trasporte, Salvador Bordeos and Marlon Monteverde, S1CD Arnel Tumacas, F1MRs Saldy Aven and Nicolas Benedicto Jr., and S1EM Fredelito Vite.

"This is really a great honor for us. We don't care about the reward. What is important is a medal that will add up to our good record and performance," Querubin said.

"I really treasure more the award than the reward, it makes us more proud, the Navy and the Marines," Villareal said. ***With a report from Martin Marfil; AP***

Sibuco clash boosts GMA rating

From page A1

during Friday's encounter with the Marines' Special Warfare Group off the Sibuco coast in Zamboanga del Norte was a success that President Macapagal-Arroyo and US President George W. Bush badly needed to bolster the US-led war on international terrorism since the toppling of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan last year.

This is the reason President Macapagal was next to delirious when she declared the death of Abu Sabaya was "a victory for our soldiers." She added that the Abu Sayyaf "used to act like kings, now they are like rats hiding in their cubby holes."

Bush also sent a message "expressing happiness" over the event.

When a Filipino military patrol rescued American Gracia Burnham on June 7 also in Zamboanga del Norte, both Ms Macapagal and Bush considered the hostage rescue a turning point of the war on terrorism in the Philippines directed at the Abu Sayyaf.

Larger significance

Although the encounter in which Abu Sabaya was killed only involved several outlaws who engaged the Marines, Sabaya's death has a much larger significance.

First, his death ended a long run of hostage taking that began in March 2000 when the Abu Sayyaf kidnapped 50 teachers and children in Maluso, Basilan.

This was followed by the abduction in April 2000 of 21 hostages in the Malaysian resort of Sipadan, 19 of whom were foreigners. They were taken to Jolo where they were held for four months and freed after at least P245 million in ransom was paid to the Abu Sayyaf. This established the fact that its main activity was big-scale extortion that has less to do with Islamic fundamentalist zeal or a radical method of promoting the Muslim separatist cause in the Philippines.'

After Sipadan, the last big Abu Sayyaf hostage-taking was the seizure in May last year of three Americans (two of whom were the missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham) and 17 Filipinos at the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan.

The death of Abu Sabaya had a large symbolic value. It punctured the myth of the seeming invincibility of a relatively small outlaw band defying the military might of the Philippine government, later aided by US military technology and troops.

The real leader of the Abu Sayyaf is said to be Khadaffy Janjalani, whose whereabouts are unknown. But the flamboyant Sabaya was the face and symbol of the Abu Sayyaf's arrogance and defiance.

Turning point

The turning point of the government's campaign against the Abu Sayyaf may be traced to the joint RP-US military exercise (Balikatan 02-1) centered in Basilan beginning in February.

The stated purpose of the exercises was to enhance the combat ability of Filipino troops through training with US forces and use of advanced technology facilities and weapons. Not so well disguised, however, was the objective of freeing the American hostages as well as in drawing the Abu Sayyaf into combat by putting pressure on them and encircling their jungle hideouts.

The opportunity for combat came on June 7 when a Philippine military patrol encountered in Zamboanga del Norte Sabaya's unit that was holding the hostages.

Following the rescue operation, Filipino troops never again lost track of the fleeing Sabaya until they caught up with him in the sea battle off Sibuco.

The contribution of Balikatan in enhancing the Filipino troop's fighting skills against homegrown terrorists is hard to deny.

But the rout of the Abu Sayyaf in Sibuco and the killing of Abu Sabaya were exclusively a Filipino feat.

There were no American Special Forces with Filipino patrols in Zamboanga del Norte, although the Philippine government had agreed earlier with the United States to allow US troops to join Filipino patrols moving close to the Abu Sayyaf redoubts.

US role

The statement of Maj. Richard Sater, spokesperson for the US forces conducting counter-terrorism training exercises, is an accurate depiction of the US role.

He said US troops were not directly involved in the fighting, but he added, "We helped out (by) providing some surveillance and communication."

It was this surveillance and communication facility that enabled the Filipino Marines to pursue Abu Sabaya and his group fleeing to a high-powered speedboat at 3 a.m.

The fact that the Marines depended in the chase the speedboat Sabaya had used in transporting the hostages from Dos Palmas is not only an irony.

Technology

It illustrates the point that in the Abu Sayyaf campaign, Third World technology was as important as a weapon in anti-terrorism as the most advanced technological facilities used in the campaign against the Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan.

The small-scale operations in Basilan and Zamboanga del Norte highlight the contrast of the nature of counter-terrorism war here and in Afghanistan.

In Afghanistan, the full force of technology, including heavy bombing, was deployed, forcing the al-Qaida to seek refuge in the caves near Kandahar.

As in Afghanistan, local forces were indispensable. The Northern Alliance launched the ground attack on Kabul and other Taliban-held cities at a time when Washington was hesitating to deploy large US ground forces.

The rescue of Gracia Burnham and the death of Sabaya are a major breakthrough in the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf following six months of Balikatan exercises during which there was a rising clamor for results and increasing pressure to rescue the hostages and crush the outlaws.

Reinforced

The military success reinforces the validity of the Macapagal administration's hawkish policy backing Bush's preemptive strategy of fighting al-Qaida networks spread around the globe.

It demonstrates that the policy works and can deliver results. The success—but not victory—is certain to help her regain her plummeting satisfaction rating in the way that the Mindanao campaign of Estrada, leading to the capture of MILF camps, helped reverse the tumbling of his popularity rating in early 2000.

Since the Abu Sayyaf is clearly on the run, and the military has regained the initiative and momentum, the elimination of Abu Sabaya demonstrates the fact that it has acquired a stronger capacity to crush the remnants of the Abu Sayyaf.

Priests keep camp for waste recycling

From page A1

It is expensive to put up the solar panel, "but after that you just keep going and going," says Carey, who kept on scratching his legs with a pair of shears to ward off ants from the grassy grounds.

Five zones

The camp has five zones—one for planting vegetables and herbs; three for maintaining animals, trees and shrubs; and another for a forest where non-domesticated animals, including snakes, thrive.

"But don't worry, the snakes are not aggressive. Just make noise and they go away," says Fr. Dominique Nolan, a 250-lb, 6'2" Australian and one of the priest overseers.

The snakes, forest, non-fruit-bearing trees are at the farthest corner because, according to Carey, "the things you need you keep closest to you."

"They take care of themselves," he said. He points to a neat pile of cement sacks and boxes underneath Brendan Hall, a typical building in the camp made of bamboo, elevated on concrete posts and covered with steep, inverted V roofs made of anahaw leaves. Inside the cement sacks are more cement sacks, and in the boxes are empty cans of paint.

Carey describes this pile of waste as "stuff that we don't know what to do with yet."

He says the materials couldn't be brought to recyclers because not all of them are recyclable.

The cylindrical tin can of paint can be recycled, but not the lead material that glues its ends together, a highly toxic substance.

The cement sacks don't qualify for recycling, either. "They will break up, but they won't break down," Carey said.

Roberto Mina, the camp manager, says constant contact with buyers of recyclable materials taught the camp overseers a simple way of determining whether a certain type of plastic is recyclable.

"You burn a tiny portion of the plastic. If it has no odor, then it's recyclable. If it emits foul odor, then it's not," Mina says.

Biodigester

An "all-weather" path made of various sizes of stones packed in shoulders of cement winds its way across the camp.

In one hut, Carey approaches a stove that looks like a bench sitting on four legs with a water kettle on top. Outside the hut hung a sign that says "Biodigester."

Carey turns a finger-sized lever attached to a pipe in the middle of the stove. It is fueled by methane gas, he says. The stove, he says, gives off a clear flame that can burn for 30 to 45 minutes. Methane is generated from various kinds of wastes in the camp, human or non-human.

Beside another hut is a toilet raised about 5 feet from the ground. Inside is a latrine that is nothing but a concrete-framed hole with a wood cover fitted with a handle.

No water is needed to flush liquid or solid waste. Wastes just fall into a 6-foot deep hole where they transform into biogas, sludge, fertilizer and "food for fish."

"It's a cycle and you just don't interrupt it," says Carey. "Did you make a deposit?" Nolan asks. "Deposits are most welcome here."

Odor is kept out of the toilet by constantly flowing air through a chimney that is covered by a domed set of blades that rotate when struck by wind or by the heat of the sun.

Rainwater is allowed into the pile of waste at the bottom of the toilet, "but it would take at least 250 years before that pile overflows," says Carey.

Runoff water from the toilet "rich in nutrients" flows out into a fishpond. Other wastewater is collected in a pit made of concrete.

'Gray water'

In the pit, natural processes rid the water of any toxins, and this water is used to irrigate the camp's gardens. The priests call this "gray water" for no other reason than its color.

"You don't drink it, of course," says Carey.

Inside the pit live frogs that "are benchmarks if the water isn't poisoned," says Nolan.

A white, frothy thing was stuck on one part of the fishpond that breeds *tilapia* and carp. "Frogs' eggs," says Carey.

Near the middle of the pond lay a contraption that looked like a water tank pulling a bicycle.

"That's an aerator (a device to keep oxygen flowing in the pond). The kids have fun riding that bike," he says.

There's no fixed schedule for catching fish.

Rain and sunshine keep the pond teeming with life. "Nature takes care of that," says Carey.

Water lilies are allowed to grow in the pond, but Nolan says they are removed and thrown into composts that abound in the camp.

The lilies suppress weeds and keep moisture in the soil, he says. Old copies of the Inquirer become part of the soil, too, says Nolan, pointing to heaps of paper with blue tints in the soil.

Warm pile

Carey reaches into a pile of now moist leaves, tree branches and weeds just beside the zone where the herbs and vegetables are grown.

He takes a handful of materials from the pile and asks his guests to touch it. It felt like rough cloth that just went under a steam iron.

He digs a small opening in the pile and places a hand inside it. "Must be close to 75 degrees Fahrenheit in there," he says.

Someday, he says, a water pipe will be laid on top of those warm heaps and there won't be need to heat water anymore.

Laid out around the camp's plant, vegetable and herb gardens are black, elastic pipes that carry recycled water.

The nutrients in the water keep the camp teeming with life, among them animals. Around the heap of compost ran a white rabbit that looked like it weighed 8 kilograms.

"That one got out," says Nolan. "You can't really let them roam free. The rain and the ants are killing them."

A rooster about 2 feet tall and weighing about 3 kilograms searched for food near the rabbit cages. Near where the escaped rabbit roamed sat a three-layer, box-like structure that keeps bees.

"The bees circulate within a 2-kilometer radius. They pollinate everything around that radius," says Carey.

Eucalyptus

Nolan asks Carey to take some leaves from a barely grown tree near the smelly flower. "It's local eucalyptus," Nolan says as he held out a leaf he had just crushed in his hand. "This is the stuff Vicks (a popular mentholated medicine) is made of."

Near the fishpond, Carey points to a leaf-less palm tree. "It's dead now but look there," Carey says, drawing attention to the bottom of the dead tree from where sagged six green vines about a foot long each with green-purple round nuts wrapped around each of them. "That's its (the dead palm tree) last effort to reproduce."

"But the tree is teeming with life. Look," he says, pointing to a plant called *kakawati* spreading out branches and leaves from the trunk of the dead palm tree. "It's a great host for a lot of other things."

In a work area where most of the carpentry for the camp is done, Carey uncovers a three-layer pail and shows off its contents—worms working their way through leaves, tree barks, weeds, dead plants.

"Some of these are red, some are blue," he says.

From a sack, Carey takes out a handful of dried materials that looked like pellets smaller than mongo beans. "This is what you get from what the worm worked on," he says. "Just let the sun get on to it."

Roberto and Cris Mina spent their life in the camp, that sits on land leased for free to the Columbans, since 1999 when they returned from Ireland where they spent four years as lay missionaries.

Managers

The couple manages what they now call the farm—Roberto the technical aspects while Cris the administrative ones.

Roberto says they didn't have any background on zero-waste management or attempts to achieve it except for efforts in Ireland to reduce the number of bags of trash that garbage collectors pick up from them.

"We had to do that because you're limited only to two bags a day and you pay additional charges for every extra bag," he says.

The first six months of their stay were tough, Roberto says. "I kept asking myself why am I doing this," he says. "At first, *mandidiri ka*. Why do I have to clean up the diaper when I could just throw it away?"

But things changed as the days passed.

"I just realized one day that for the last 35 years, I've been contributing to pollution," says Roberto.

He points to a three-layered shelf on the outside wall of their house in the camp where all sorts of plastics, cans and other non-biodegradable materials have been sorted and piled. "Two years of waste *yan*," he says.

He pulls out a biscuit can filled with empty plastic toothpaste tubes. He says he can't give it to the garbage collector because there's always a possibility that these wastes would be burned and they contain dioxins.

He says he may have to build a bigger storage area for the wastes that he refuses to discard "until one day someone would be ingenious enough to recycle them."

But to avoid that possibility coming sooner than later, Roberto says his family has learned to search for alternatives for non-biodegradable materials.

One of the things that they started to shun was Styrofoam packs from food chains.

"Sometimes, we can't avoid these things. Like Jollibee, my eldest child really loves to go there. Now if we buy spaghetti from Jollibee, we bring our own containers," he says.

He takes out a spent light bulb from the neat arrangement of non-biodegradable wastes on the shelves. He says these are things some people can't avoid using, "but we can always reduce our consumption, Like this bulb . . . if I use it wisely, it would last two years instead of just six months."

In a hut near a pentagon-shaped chapel, the two priests rest and talk about plants, the environment and how possible it is to reduce, if not eliminate, pollution.

"Unless you have ears to hear, you can't hear. Unless you have eyes to see, you can't see," says Nolan, quoting a passage from the Bible. "Unless you're receptive to it (fighting pollution), forget it."

No sexy stars, please

From page A1

starlets as prospective models to represent the Filipino youth in the World Day of Families to be held in Manila next year.

Sr. Lydia Collado, chair of the archdiocese's organizing team for the Bigkis Youth festival, said actress Jolina Magdangal had been tapped to lead the Filipino delegation.

Collado said another singer, Cris Villonco, had also agreed to act as youth role model for the festival this year, a prelude to the World Day of Families on Jan. 22-26.

She said the Catholic Church would "welcome" young bold stars who would like to join the event if they changed their image and acted as good examples for the youth.

"Image is important, but I have nothing against them (sexy stars)," Collado said during the formal launching of the Bigkis Youth festival at the SM Megamall yesterday.

A number of talents in the entertainment industry showed up "in service to the Church."

"If they (sexy stars) think that they have something to say, why not? As long as they can be consistent with what they say," Collado added.

She said no sexy stars were invited because none of the youth members in the 250 parishes of the archdiocese suggested their names.

Magdangal, who was recently tapped by President Macapagal-Arroyo to reach out to the youth by co-hosting the President's weekly TV program, was the popular choice, Collado said.

The young actress attended a seminar for the youth in Paco, Manila, last week and has appeared in Bigkis Youth activities in the past few months, she said.

Villonco, on the other hand, sang before Pope John Paul II and other Church leaders at the Vatican, a few years ago. She is a promising talent in the theater and music industry.

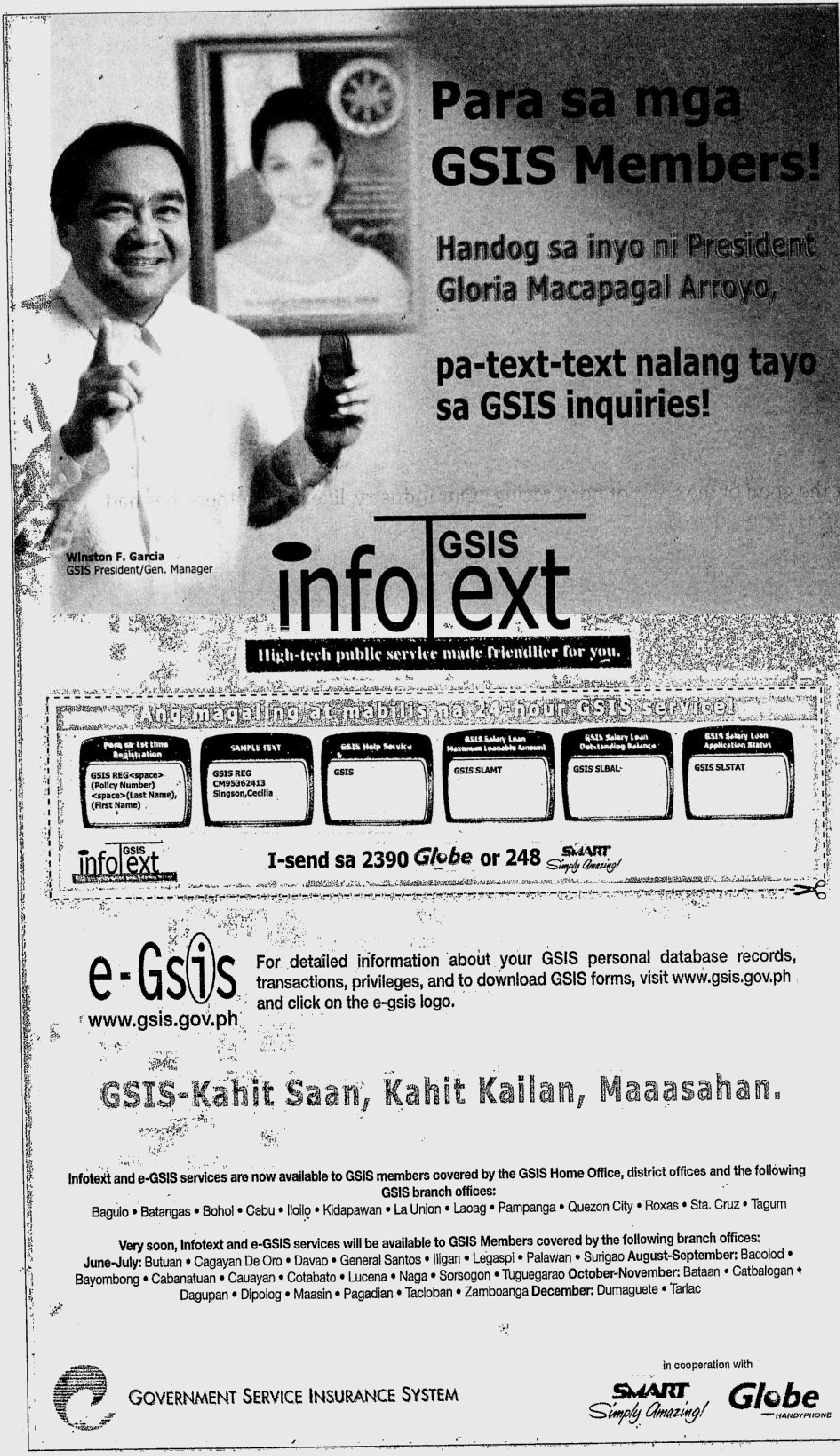
Many people, however, are more attracted to the likes of sexy stars Aya Medel, Ara Mina, Joyce Jimenez, Rica Peralejo and Assunta de Rossi.

Asked if the Church would change its attitude about sexy stars should they change their wardrobe, Collado said, "Maybe."

The Pope has chosen Manila to be the host of the World Day of Families in appreciation of the country's value on families and faith, that, he said, were the "two greatest gifts of the Filipinos."

FILE PHOTOS/DENNIS SABANGAN

YOUTH role models: actress Jolina Magdangal and singer Cris Villonco



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Barrio . . .

From page A1

Macapagal was baptized on Oct. 12, 1910.

The church underwent a major facelift for today's wedding. Heavy-duty Carrier and Koppel air-conditioning units have also been installed inside.

Aside from the exclusive guest list, Arroyo's province mates will be feasting on an abundance of food. Since yesterday, food gifts—fish, chicken, rice, *pansit* (noodles) and even *lechon* (roasted pigs)—have swamped Arroyo.

The gifts came from his neighbors in Barangay Concepcion here and from his constituents elsewhere in the province.

"*Tuwang-tuwa ako* (I'm overjoyed)," said Arroyo, who is widely known as Mikey.

He said all the food would be served at the reception that will follow the 10 a.m. wedding.

Like a barrio fiesta, food for the reception will be an all-Filipino fare: *lechon*, crispy crablets and a variety of seafood, *pancit luglug*, and native refreshments like *tibuk-tibuk* and *halo-halo*.

The reception in Lubao will be catered by the Plaza and Cabalen. The evening reception in Malacañang will be catered by the Manila Hotel and Gaita Fores.

GMA signs

The whole town is festooned like a fiesta, but with political color. Bridges leading to Lubao have been painted with "GMA Cares" signs. Along the main road, billboards directing the way to the church are up, as are numerous streamers greeting the bride and groom and their guests.

Residents said they were happy to see Arroyo take a wife.

"He's our vice governor and the President's son. It is an honor for us to have his wedding here," Lilian Hidalgo said.

Her husband Rodel said the presence of three Presidents was reason enough to be excited.

"Where in the world would you see three important persons in the country but here? That's an honor for us," he explained.

Arsenio Manuel, 72, a follower of Cong Dadong, as the first President Macapagal was affectionately known, said all of Lubao was excited about the wedding because "Mikey is one of us."

Yesterday, Arroyo kept emphasizing the reason he chose the church for the wedding.

"It was where my grandfather was baptized. To me, the church also symbolizes Lubao," he explained. "It speaks of my also being from Lubao."

He said he could not think of any other place to hold the wedding but in Pampanga because "I want to share our joy with our *cabalen* (province mates)."

Guest list

From 600 to 700 of the country's most prominent personalities are expected to attend the ceremonies that will be officiated by Bishop Paciano Aniceto of the Archdiocese of Pampanga.

Aniceto will be assisted by Lubao parish priest Rodolfo de Guzman and Pat Lim, parish priest of the Santa Maria della Strada Church in La Vista, Quezon City, where the First Family resides.

Aside from Aquino and Ramos, the main sponsors are Sen. Loren Legarda, Georgina de Venecia, Enrique Aboitiz, Salvacion Villaraza, Diosdado Macapagal Jr., publisher Emilio Yap, Mario Cruel and Norma Chan.

Arroyo's brother Diosdado or "Dato" is best man, while Emily Montenegro Yupangco is the matron of honor. Rose Montenegro and Evangeline or "Luli," Arroyo's sister, are the maids of honor.

The secondary sponsors are Alex Macapagal and Joanne Dawns, Greg Montenegro (candle), Marinella Montenegro (veil) and Rafael Montragon and Cetrin Datok (cord).

Presidential social secretary Bettina Aboitiz is the overall supervisor of the ceremonies.

Yesterday, workers under the supervision of the Presidential Management Staff worked feverishly to set up an enormous all-white tent with wood flooring and red carpeting on the right side of the church—the venue for the reception immediately after the wedding. The official reception is set in Malacañang at 7 p.m. today.

Three capiz chandeliers were hung inside the tent.

De Guzman, Lubao parish priest, said the church grounds had been tidied up, the plants trimmed, and even the façade of the Holy Rosary Academy given a facelift. Today's classes at the academy have been suspended.

De Guzman said he was not privy to how much the renovations cost, but he welcomed the wedding as a "blessing" to the parish because the church badly needed immediate restoration.

The National Historical Institute has reconstructed a replica of the hut where the late President Macapagal was born and raised, in time for the wedding. The house of Cong Dadong is in Barangay San Nicolas I, a kilometer from the church.

Jose and Eulalia Flores, at whose wedding Cong Dadong had stood as wedding sponsor when he was Vice President, supervised the reconstruction.

The hut, made of nipa and bamboo, was adorned with a Philippine flag and buntings of red, white and blue.

An open letter to Her Excellency Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

President
Republic of the Philippines
Malacanang Palace, Manila

Your Excellency,

On June 5, 2001, you gave the horse racing industry much support and enthusiasm with the appointment of a genuine horseman in the person of Mr. Andrew Sanchez to the position of Chairman of the Philippine Racing Commission (PHILRACOM).

As an alter ego of the Office of the President, Mr. Sanchez lost no time in effecting changes and spearheaded policy changes to re-direct the focus of Philippine Racing, consistent with the plans and programs of your administration.

Effectively, this man we all fondly call "Andrew" has been able to harness government and private sector support for our industry of horseracing in such a short time. Efforts to improve the quality of racing are continuing, employing available resources of the Philracom. Hopefully, a much better product can be presented, that will surely lead to relevant innovations for the sport of horseracing. What is noteworthy though, is the ability of the current chairman to bring together members of our industry to work together as one. This industry after all has been perceived as fragmented and uncooperative. For this reason alone, we feel that the support you have given us should not be shortlived. We therefore appeal to you, to please re-appoint the Hon. Andrew Sanchez, whose term shall expire on July 2, 2002, to his current position as Chairman of the Philippine Racing Commission.

We need the leadership qualities of the current Philracom chairman to steer all of us in the proper course for the good of the sport of horseracing. Our industry, like many others, has had frequent differences of opinion, most specially on issues of policy. On the matter of this appeal, we assure Your Excellency, of our united efforts to stand behind the re-appointment of Chairman Andrew Sanchez with one voice, together. We feel such a move will catalyze our industry's growth and future in these most challenging times. Under the tested leadership of Philracom Chairman Sanchez we are confident, Madame President, that the racing industry will be able to surpass its contribution of one billion pesos a year to government revenues and at the same time continue giving employment to thousands of our countrymen nationwide.

We thank you, Madame President, for having the time to listen to our pleas. We give to you our continuing offer of prayers and support, for the success your administration so rightfully deserves, for the good of our country and people.

MABUHAY! And more power to you!

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TEODORO P. BOLANTE
President

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WORLD CUP SEMIS

Turkey worries Brazil

SAITAMA, Japan—Turkey is just the adversary Brazil didn't want to meet in the World Cup semifinals.

The Turks were trouble for Brazil in the first round, even though the South Americans got by 2-1. And Brazil expects they'll be even tougher when the teams meet on Wednesday.

"Frankly, I don't like having to face Turkey again," coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said in an interview with Brazilian television on Sunday.

The Brazilians, fresh from a thrilling 2-1 victory over England, watched on television and the Internet as Turkey ousted Senegal 1-0 with a golden goal to advance to the semifinals along with Brazil, Germany and South Korea.

"I would have preferred to face Senegal," Scolari said.

Senegal's wide-open style would have favored Brazil more than the physical, disciplined game of the Turks, he said.

"Senegal is a team that we haven't played, which would make the game different, more open," Scolari said. "Turkey gave us a lot of work in the first round and are more organized tactically."

Roberto Carlos also was rooting for the Africans.

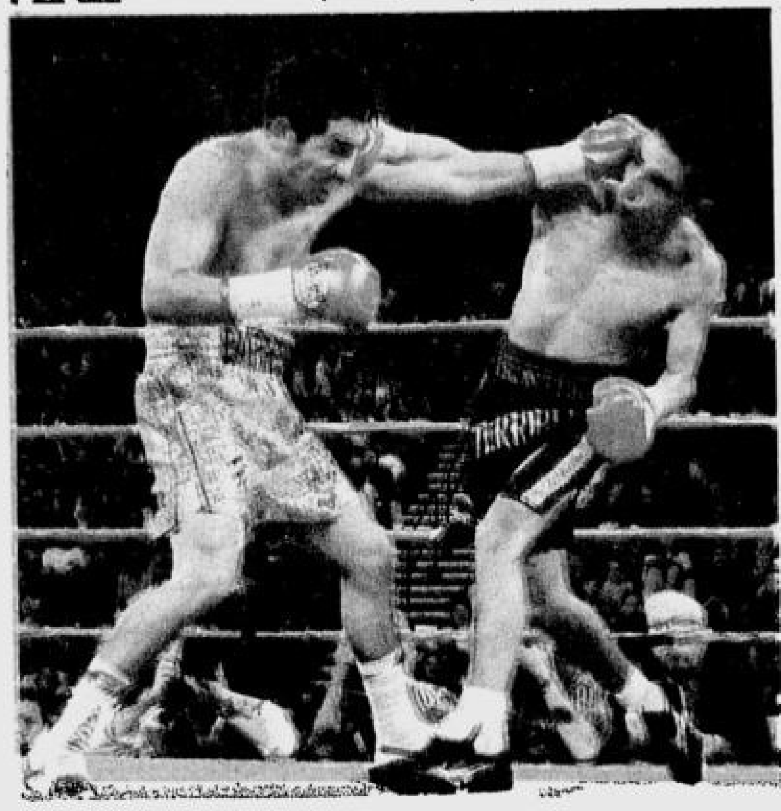
"Turkey will be tougher for us because they know our game," the Real Madrid defender said.

Brazil and Turkey met June 3 in the opening of Group C. On paper, the game stacked up as a classic mismatch between the four-time champions and a team that hadn't reached the World Cup finals since 1954. But it was a different story on the field.

Late in the first half, Turkey took the lead when Hasan Sas slipped behind Cafu and beat goalie Marcos with a sharp-angle shot. Brazil got the equalizer late, on an acrobatic leap by Ronaldo amid three defenders.

Brazilians fear that Turkey will be out for revenge on Wednesday. **AP**

TURKEY'S Ilhan Mansiz (17) celebrates with teammates Alpay Ozalan (left) and Umit Davila after scoring the golden goal during their quarterfinal clash with Senegal on Saturday night. Turkey's 1-0 win enabled it to arrange a semifinal showdown with powerhouse Brazil on Wednesday, June 26. AP



TITLE FIGHT AP

Mexico's Marco Antonio Barrera (left) and compatriot Erik Morales trade blows in the seventh round of their WBC featherweight title in Las Vegas on Saturday. Barrera posted a unanimous 12-round decision to capture the crown.

Kaye seizes control

CROMWELL, Connecticut—Jonathan Kaye avoided the late trouble that derailed Phil Mickelson, shooting a 5-under-par 65 Saturday to take the third-round lead in the Greater Hartford Open.

Kaye, suspended for two months and placed on probation for the season after a confrontation with a tournament security guard last year, had a 13-under 197 total on the TPC at River Highlands to take a one-stroke lead over Scott Verplank into the final round.

Mickelson played the last three holes in 3 over for a 66, leaving the defending champion five strokes back at 8 under along with Steve Pate (66), Jim Carter (66) and Hidemichi Tanaka (68). **AP**

Kim ahead by 5 shots

PITTSFORD, New York—Mi Hyun Kim shot her second straight 5-under-par 67 to take sole possession of the lead Saturday after three rounds at the LPGA Rochester International.

Kim's third straight round in the 60s put her at 13-under 203, five shots ahead of Australia's Karrie Webb, who rallied with birdies on her final three holes to finish with her second straight 72 and a 208 total.

Defending champion Laura Davies, who had a 69, was another shot back and Juli Inkster was alone in fourth at 210 after a solid 67. Se Ri Pak also had a 67 and was at 211, while Beth Daniel skied to a 74 and was tied with Gloria Park at 212. **AP**

Castillo's streak ends

MIAMI—With a blank stare on his face, Luis Castillo stood in the on-deck circle and watched his teammates celebrate a fifth consecutive victory Saturday night.

Castillo was obviously disappointed with the end of his 35-game hitting streak, the 10th-longest in baseball history. But it was the winning streak that mattered most to the Florida Marlins - and Castillo eventually agreed.

Castillo went 0-for-4 and was left on deck when the Marlins finished off a four-run rally in the ninth inning to beat the Detroit Tigers 5-4. **AP**

GP back June 29

ANOTHER action-packed weekend awaits local motorsports enthusiasts when the 2002 SVI-Petron Grand Prix resumes with the seventh and eighth rounds on June 29-30 at the Subic international Raceway.

Two-time champion Jody Coseteng of Auto Plus-Caltex-Red Horse and Monching Gutierrez of Dickies-MP Turbo try to extend their respective winning streaks and keep the overall lead halfway through the 14-part series organized by the Sports Values, Inc. and sponsored by Petron.

Coseteng proved almost unstoppable in his well-prepared Honda SIR, sweeping the first six races and taking a commanding lead in the centerpiece Blaze super saloon category with a perfect score of 60 points.

Eagle Ridge seen as next breeding ground of champs

WHILE most exclusive clubs may have the sincere desire to open up their facilities to aspiring national champions and future Tigers, membership concerns often come in the way.

A 36-hole course may not already be enough for a regular 3,000-member force with at least 500 active players, much more for a club with only 18 holes. Weekend accommodations for jungolf or amateur pool training or tournaments are seldom accepted.

The Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club, the only club in the Philippines with four courses, has already made a firm commitment to the worthy cause of talent development not just for its membership and dependents but also those showing a big potential.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos, himself, took special notice of this noble objective when he recently led the inauguration of Eagle's main sports clubhouse together with Mrs. Ming Ramos, Cavite Gov. Ayong Maliksi, Sta. Lucia Realty president Exequiel Robles, ERGCC Chair Tommy Alcantara and ERGCC director Nick Alcantara.

"With its sheer size, Eagle Ridge can really become a center for talent development. The offer of Eagle to help in this cause is, indeed, a big boost to local golf," said Ramos, credited for sparking the golf boom in the 1990s.

Eagle had hosted the Philippine amateur golf championship won by Jerome Delariarte and most of the above average amateurs—punished but unbowed by the quirks of the Dye and Faldo courses—were one in saying that both require shotmaking skills.

The advantage of having four courses and three clubhouses has already made Eagle a haven for a big-scale events.

The Aoki side and the newly opened Norman front nine are generally accepted as the friendlier layouts but have their own unique character.

Plans are already afoot for the Eagle driving range and the completion of the back nine of the Norman course.

Meanwhile, the first ever monthly medal tournament for senior members will be held on July 27 at the Aoki course. Only members 55 years and above are eligible for the event. Tee-off is 7-8 a.m.

Also, the club announced that on Mondays, Faldo and Dye are closed and only Aoki is open. On Tuesdays, Aoki is closed and both Dye and Faldo are open. All three are open the rest of the week. The Norman course is open only on Wednesday, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Orchard refines Palmer course

THE EAGLE has landed at the Orchard Golf and County Club. Tiff-Eagle that is.

Palmer Course Design Co. and the legendary Arnold Palmer recently announced that the project with the Orchard to re-turf their Arnold Palmer signature course with the ultra-dwarf Tiff-Eagle grass has been an outstanding success.

The task of refining the greens was started in February of 2001 when the decision was made to move forward with the intent of having the greens be recognized as possibly the most elegant and fastest in the country.

Every effort as made to retain the character of the original greens while refining them to allow for the faster putting surface speeds.

The first nine holes of golf have now grown in and are being groomed for play. The back nine holes have undergone final review and approval on behalf of PCDC by Palmer Design regional vice president John Hamilton.

"We are very pleased with the work done on the front nine greens and we feel that refinements made to the back nine greens will make them exceptional as well," Hamilton said. "We are particularly happy with the recontouring work done on the 18th green and we're confident that when played by the Manila golfing community that they will find it to be one of the best finishing greens in the country."

Turfing of the back nine holes will now commence with an eye on opening all 18 holes to play this coming October. A major event is being planned to coincide with the launch.

Orchard has already earned its place among the best courses in the local scene. In 1995, the Johnnie Walker Classic-one of the biggest events the country had ever hosted next only to the World Cup of Golf—was played there.

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Django should be in Asiad team

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

(SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT. Dance Sport Council of the Philippines president Becky Garcia has called my attention, saying I was wrong when I wrote recently that "the DSCP supervises the Professional Dance Teachers' Association (Prodanz) headed by Cynthia Mamon." The DSCP does not supervise Prodanz, Ms Garcia stressed. "These two are entirely independent bodies that operate separately." Sorry about that, now that I know. For the record, there are only two legitimate bodies for amateur and professional dancesport in the Philippines. The amateur body recognized by the Philippine Olympic Committee is the DSCP, headed by Ms Garcia, a member of the International Dancesport Federation while the professional body is Prodanz, headed by Ms Mamon, a member of the World Dance and Dance Sport Council." The two bodies are separate from each other but they work for a common goal, that of working for the promotion and development of dancesport in the Philippines.)

NOW that Francisco "Django" Bustamante is available, billiards officials—if they sincerely love their country—should include him in the Philippine team that will carry the colors in the Busan Asian Games this September. As of this writing, Bustamante is not in the Asiad lineup. Why?

Top honchos of the Snooker and Billiards Congress should add Bustamante to the team and enable him to join his longtime teammate Efren "Bata" Reyes and the others who were earlier selected to play in the Asian Games. For sure, the inclusion of Bustamante in the team would help boost the country's medal chances in the Asiad.

The Asiad is serious business. It is the region's version of the Olympic Games, featuring only the best and the brightest. At the pool tables, fans will witness world-class players strutting their wares such as Chinese-Taipeh's former World Pool champion Fong Pang-chao and Japan's No. 1 player Kumihiro Takahashi. The Japanese placed third in the recent Motolite 9-Ball Challenge won by Bustamante at the Big Dome.

Incidentally, Bustamante missed the Asiad held in Bangkok four years ago because he had to honor a contract in Germany. This time, he is ready to play. Like Reyes, Bustamante has already achieved an outstanding record not only here but also abroad. Early this year, he blanked Germany's fabled Ralf Souquet, 9-0, in the finals of the Japan Open to add another feather in his cap.

While on the subject of billiards, what's this rumor about the Philippines being expelled by the Asian Pocket Billiards Union for alleged non-payment of dues? Will the POC please investigate? This is a great embarrassment for the country.

* * *

For inquiries, call fax/phone (044) 933-1214.

PBL: Eagles go for it again

By Dennis Eroa

GAME TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
4 p.m.—Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation vs Blu Sun Power

Best-of-five (Ateneo leads, 2-1)
Game One: Ateneo 76 Blu 73
Game Two: Ateneo 92 Blu 86 (2OT)
Game Three: Blu 46 Ateneo 45

ATENEO-Hapee-Negros Navigation, unfazed by its Game 3 loss, takes another crack at the prestigious title as it battles gallant Blu Sun Power today in the PBL Chairman's Cup championship series at the Makati Coliseum. The game starts at 4 p.m.

Getting the breaks, Blu fashioned a nail-biting 46-45 win last Friday, averting an Ateneo sweep in the best-of-five title series. Ateneo won Game 1, 76-73, before showing nerves of steel in escaping with a 92-86 triumph in Game 2 after two overtimes.

"We should not let it slip again," said Ateneo mentor Joel Banal, the hottest pick of the PBL Press Corps as best coach this conference. The Blue Eagles missed four straight shots in the dying seconds which kept the Detergent Kings alive in the series.

Blu mentor Leo Isaac remained confident that his charges will not run out of luck against Ateneo which is seeking to complete its transformation in a span of one conference from a "regular" to a champion squad.

SPORTSWATCH

Pasay derby slated

PASAY City Cockpit's much-awaited 15th Anniversary 5-Cock Derby gets under way on July 18 and 20, with at least 150 powerhouse entries gunning for the top prize of P1 million. According to PCC pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Erid dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano, every participant is a sure winner since they will receive anniversary gifts just by joining the event. The giveaways per entry are one rice cooker, special rice and one two-burner gas stove. Every runner-up finisher gets a microwave oven while the champions will get one refrigerator each as bonus. Entry fee is P15,000. The derby starts at 9 a.m. on July 18 to accommodate more than 150 fights. A total of 156 entries was registered last year. Submission of weights is strictly one day before derby. For inquiries, please contact 843-1746, 843-1890 and 816-6750.

Mandaluyong meet

MANDALUYONG Coliseum's special 4-cock derby on Tuesday, June 25, to be hosted by the OPMI Office Staff, will definitely push through since a total of 25 participants have already signed up as of yesterday. This was confirmed by OPMI Office Staff members led by Joel Ngo, Rody Torres and Maricar Gonzaga to be assisted by its president, Vic Yu. Entries must be submitted today, Monday, June 24, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. and interested parties may contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341. On Thursday, June 27, is the UCAP Handlers 5-Cock Derby to be hosted by veteran handlers Ferdinand Gaitan (Sir Vincent), Ferdie Lim (Hammer Jr.) and Bulljack Fortaleza (BL Jojit 128).

Balayan triathlon

BALAYAN, Batangas—Thousands of Batangueños got an early feast as they trooped to the streets and witnessed the participation of 67 athletes during the 258 Balkan Duathlon Challenge held here last Saturday morning. The event, co-organized by the Triathlon Association of the Philippines, Club 258 and the Municipality of Balayan, opened the duathlon season into high gear and marked an early celebration of Balayan's annual festival. Philippine Airforce man Ryan Mendoza, 28, won the Male Open title in 1 hour, 27 minutes and 18 seconds making him P3,000 richer. In the distaff side, 46-year-old Batangueña Elecia Domingo surprised everyone with her winning time of 1:54:38. Sponsors were Balayan Mayor Emmanuel Fronda, Espinell's, Hermenidad San Juan Bautista Organization Inc., Viva Mineral Water, Speedo, Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Leongson beats 'em

VETERAN rider Ernie Leongson topped the Pro Open category of the Superferry National Motorcross Super Series 2002 at the muddy Sta. Monica Racetracks in Puerto Princesa Saturday. The Shell-Yamaha standout ruled both the first and second heats of the centerpiece Pro Open for a perfect score of 40 points, to widen his edge to 151 points over teammate Jovie Saulog, who totes 126. Their teammates Popeye Rubi and Weng Yapparcon have 118 and 102, respectively, while Caltex-Revtex-KTM's Bebet dela Cruz, has 75. In the Pro 125, the pacesetter is Saulog with 151 over the 126 of Leongson. The WG&A event is also a project of the KIDS (Kabataang Iwas Droga sa tulong ng Sports) Foundation.

Alfie Cup gets going

THE ALFIE Almario Memorial Cup, a fund-raising project for the late former basketballs tar and topnotch golfer, will be held today, June 24, at the Eastridge Golf Club in Binangonan, Rizal. Tee-off time is 6 to 9 a.m. Friends and supporters of Alfie are seeing action in the tourney.

Please call Charlie 0917-5371120 for details.

GRAN COPA TODAY

Wind Blown favored

ALL eyes will be on champion galloper Wind Blown when he competes in the Philracom Cup (Division I) of the 23rd Gran Copa de Manila Stakes races today at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Hermie Esguerra's popular horse is the top choice to win the P600,000 first prize in the 1,900-meter contest which also lured Silver Story, Batangas Entry and Staunch Ally.

The 2001 Horse of Year, Wind Blown is carrying the top weight of 58 kilos as he aims to score a repeat victory in the event. Partnering Wind Blown is star jockey Fernando Raquel Jr.

Wind Blown swamped Staunch Ally and Batangas Entry in the Independence Day race recently, making Silver Story, the 2001 Triple Crown champion, as his toughest foe today.

In the San Miguel Beer Cup (Division II), a wide-open race among 11 entries is expected but tipsters say Ilocandia Slew, Sky Hawk, High Roller and Gutmoore will fight it out for the P240,000 winner's bounty.

Gran Copa de Manila Day is the high point of Manila Jockey Club's year-long racing calendar and showcases the best horses in the land today, according to MJCI president Alfonso Reyno Jr.

"Admission at San Lazaro today is free so everybody's welcome to watch the races," added Reyno.

Top officials from the City of Manila, led by Mayor Lito Atienza, the host club, the Philracom, GAB and representatives from the event's sponsors are expected to be on hand to award the prizes to the winners.

Others competing in the SMB Cup are Kitty Hawk, Arriba King, Sparkling Sky, Might and Power, Heavenly, Master Ijhay and Free Time.

Longshot wins

UNHERALDED Halo Effect won the Ongpin Cup yesterday at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Handled by Jeffrey Ladiana, Halo Effect (Conquistarose-Halo Landing) took home P1 million in ruling the second leg of the Philippine Triple Crown series.

Another longshot, Magical Mark, grabbed runner-up honors, while heavy favorite Golden Ballet ended up third. Cutting Edge, who actually finished half a length behind Halo Effect, was relegated to fourth after being disqualified.

Davao scores 4th victory

GAME TODAY (San Andres Sports Complex)
6 p.m.—Olongapo vs Batangas

CAGAYAN DE ORO—The Professional Eagles, with seven players scoring in double digits, found the Negros Slashers easy prey yesterday as they tallied an 108-87 victory and pulled away in the south division of the MBA National Conference at the Mindanao Polytechnic State Colleges Gym here.

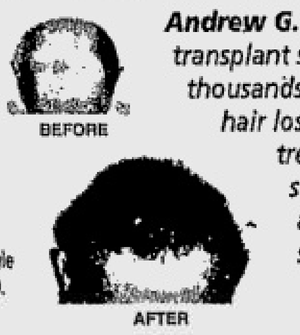
It was the fourth straight win for the Eagles, who remained the only unbeaten squad in the eight-team field.

Cid White and Glenn Peter Yap fired 17 points each, but it was Mike Manigo who emerged best player with his 14-point, 10-assist effort that enabled the Eagles to break free, 83-67, by the end of the third quarter.

The Eagles, dominating the shaded lane, never let up on their attack to hand the Slashers their third defeat in four games.

Other Eagles who delivered were Peter June Simon with 16 points, Jon Dan Salvador (14), Billy Mamaril (11) and Genesis Sasuman (10).

Pampanga posted a 90-86 victory over the defending champion LBC Batangas Saturday night at the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center in San Fernando, Pampanga. *Roy Luarca*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Race 12—1. Doña Gelay 2. Firenze Rose 3. Mr. Lucas 4. Perfect Nine
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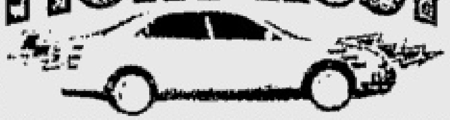
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SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ● Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Red Bull upends Alaska

By June Navarro

GAME TOMORROW
(Cuneta Astrodome)
7 p.m.— Ginebra vs Purefoods

SPITFIRE Willie Miller delivered two killer baskets from afar as Batang Red Bull whipped Alaska, 85-77, to create a three-way tie for the lead in the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Araneta Coliseum last night.

Miller's off-balanced triple followed up by a jumper inside two minutes put the match beyond redemption as the Thunder joined pacesetters Talk N Text and Coca-Cola with 2-0 records.

Those pair of shotclock-beating jumpers unloaded by Miller drove the knife into the Aces' heart as coach Tim Cone's army absorbed its first setback after beating San Miguel Beer, 77-69, at the start of its mid-season campaign.

Miller, who has a knack for converting difficult shots, went 3-of-3 from beyond the arc and finished with 11 points.

"I wasn't surprised. Willie (Miller) has what it takes to make those shots. He preserved all the efforts done by our imports," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao.

Tony Lang and Julius Nwosu proved to be unstoppable inside as the Aces ganged up on them in the shaded lane but to no avail.

Lang pumped in 27 points and led four Thunder in double figures with Nwosu pumping in 18 and Davonn Harp getting away with 16 markers.

Asi Taulava scored 22 points while Dennis Espino added 12 as the Selecta-RP Team downed San Miguel Beer, 74-62, in the second game.

The Nationals tied Barangay Ginebra at 1-1, while sending the Beermen at the bottom of the standings along with Shell and FedEx at 0-2.

Scores:

RED BULL 85—Lang 27, Nwosu 18, Harp 16, Miller 11, Villoria 5, Torion 4, Asaytono 2, Tugade 2, Locsin 0, Reyes 0.

ALASKA 77—Carawell 30, Arigo 12, Williams 10, Duat 8, Allado 5, Santos 4, Lastimosa 4, Noble 2, Feihl 2, Ordonio 0.

Quarters: 21-19, 46-40, 70-61, 85-77.

Igusquiza loses

By Recah Trinidad

SEREMBAN, Malaysia—Team Caltex had its biggest day Saturday as three RP fighters put on a spectacular show but blasphemous officiating spoiled what could have been a perfect round for the Filipinos in the 21st Asian Amateur Boxing Championship here.

Light flyweight Lhyven Salazar and bantamweight Ferdie Gamo scored contrasting wins to move into the semifinals where they are assured of bronze medals.

But lightweight Anthony Igusquiza, after the best fight of his life where he clearly beat Olympic gold medalist Somluck Kamsing, was robbed of a win and a sure medal by the judges that voted for the shamed Thai legend.

After a tentative first round, Igusquiza came out sharp and strong starting the second, then chased and mauled Kamsing until the final bell to turn the bout into a mismatch. But, as it would turn out, all Kamsing had to do was stay on his feet in order to be declared winner, 17-13.

Kamsing, 29, winner of Thailand's first Olympic gold medal in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, later apologized to Igusquiza and Filipino team officials on the bus back to the hotel for the dubious result.

This gesture however failed to conceal growing suspicion that a clique within the International Amateur Boxing Association has been coddling the Thai boxing team. Thailand has kept a perfect slate although some of its fighters had been clearly beaten by superior opponents in previous bouts.

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TELESULIT

Nayon concessionaires win TRO /A26
Bare Eye: Here's an epidemic the Filipino badly needs /A26

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

'All obstructions to be demolished'

By Christian V. Esguerra

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando yesterday assured squatters and vendors there would be no "unnecessary demolition" and they would not be singled out in his campaign to rid sidewalks of obstructions.

"This will be a total, not a selective, drive in our effort to decongest Metro Manila," Fernando told the INQUIRER.

The former mayor of Marikina City earlier said the sidewalks of Metro Manila must be recovered from vendors and other obstructions in order to ease the traffic problem.

"Not even poverty can be an excuse," he said. "All obstructions will be demolished, not just shanties and stalls."

Fernando said the MMDA would initially clear main thoroughfares such as Edsa, Rizal Avenue and C-5, and then the roads parallel to them.

He said the MMDA would explore the possibility of opening several subdivisions to vehicles to further ease traffic.

Sidewalks in subdivisions will also be cleared of trees, plants, extended fences, parked vehicles, and other obstructions, he said.

Fernando said the idea is to form a wide loop of access roads that will cut through villages and connect key streets.

"Recovering the sidewalks, not only from vendors and squatters but also from private homeowners, is a first step in solving the traffic problem," he said.

Urban poor groups have expressed alarm that they might become the primary casualties in Fernando's resolve to recover the sidewalks of the metropolis.

But Fernando said the MMDA would not single out anyone.

"We're not zeroing in on anyone," he said. "People have taken over sidewalks with impunity and we need to show them that we mean business (in taking the sidewalks back)."

Fernando, an engineer, is credited with turning Marikina into a highly developed, clean, green and disciplined city.

FERNANDEZ

LAMANGAN

CUNETA

GLITTER AND GLITCH

Sharon Cuneta manages to keep her smile even when a technical glitch causes her to stop in the middle of a song in Saturday night's Manila Film Festival Awards night. But she went on to win the best actress trophy for "Magkapatid," the best picture winner that also gave Joel Lamangan the best director plum. Rudy Fernandez is best actor for "Diskarte." Complete story in Entertainment section later this week. ROMY HOMILLADA

Recycling 'a losing proposition'

By Alcuin Papa

EFFORTS to recycle trash are "a losing proposition," according to Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

Fernando, the engineer and former Marikina City mayor who took over the MMDA last week, made the statement in the Kapihan sa Sulo media forum at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City last Saturday.

"We have to change our perception in this regard," he said of recycling. He said efforts to recycle trash in developing countries have been "unmanageable."

But he said Filipinos "recycle their trash anyway" because the Filipino culture, unlike in other countries, is not a "throw-away" culture.

"For us, nothing goes to waste completely," he said.

"We (MMDA) are the final recycling step,"

RECYCLING/ A26

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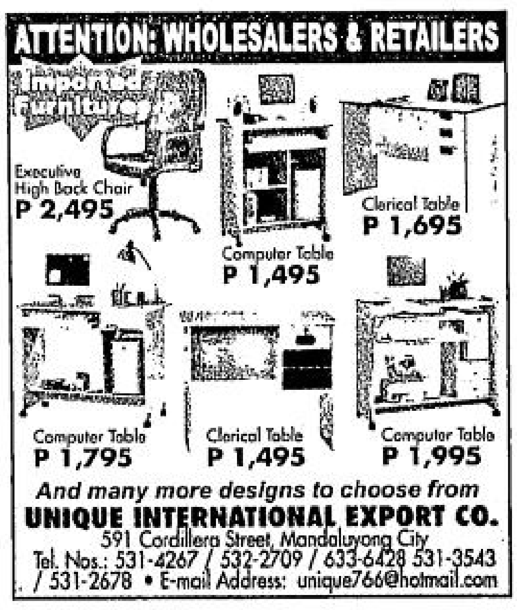

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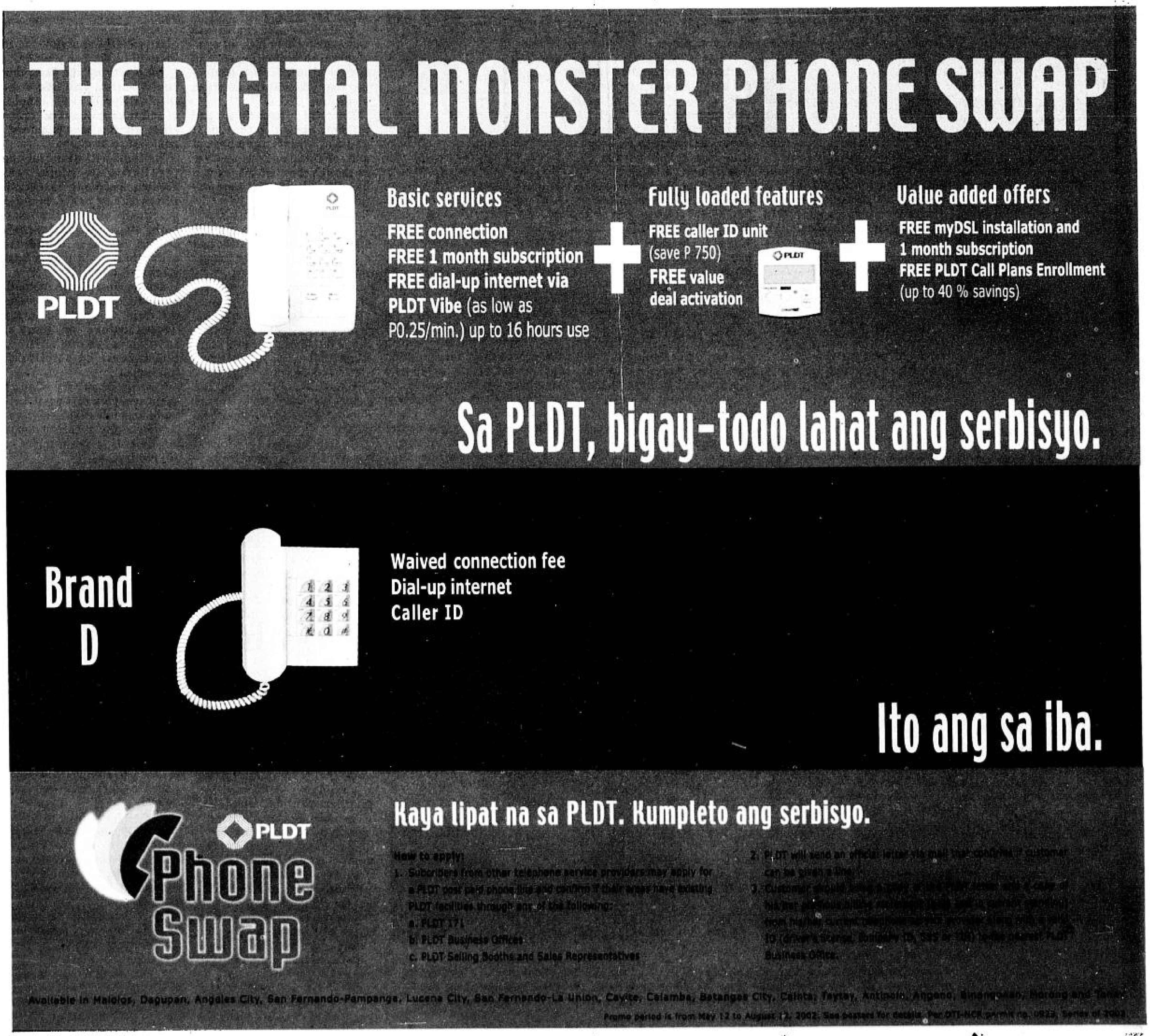

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'Weakest Link' hopeful was strongest link

By Cathy Babao Guballa

STRONGEST link and not weakest link would more appropriately describe Gerry Gonzaga, who succumbed to cardiac arrest last June 18 in Marikina City while waiting for the start of the taping of the game show "Weakest Link," where he had hoped to be a contestant.

Ironically, the day after he died, his home received a call from "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" He had made it as a contestant in that game show.

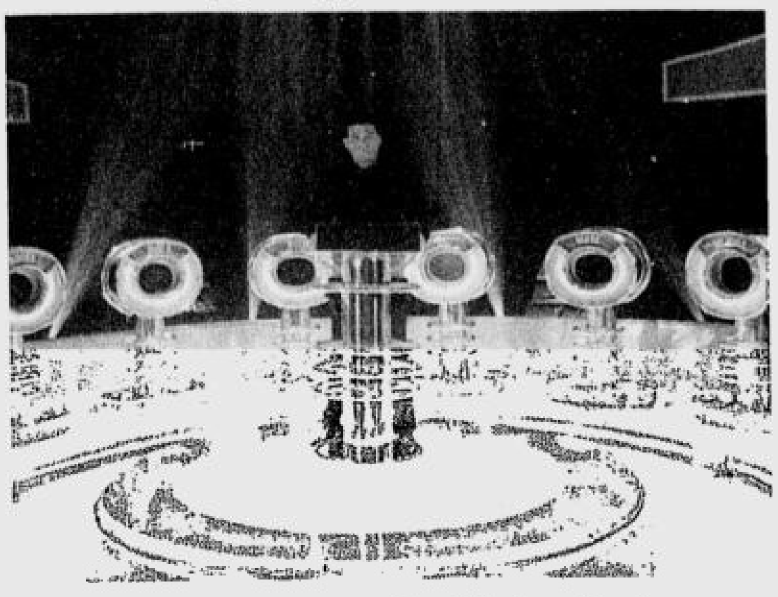
Contrary to previous reports, taping of "Weakest Link" had not yet even begun when Gonzaga, a 33-year-old real estate broker, game show aficionado and father of four, started to feel chest pains and shortness of breath.

"He was fine earlier that morning and in fact I had talked to him twice," his widow Terry relates. "First he called me while he was en route from Bayview to the studio in Marikina and the second time while they were waiting for the taping to begin."

Terry says that unlike the reports in other broadsheets, Gonzaga was not nervous at all. "He was excited for the taping to start," she says.

Shortly after his second phone call, staffers of game show producer Viva Television called Terry on her cell phone. "I could sense there was a commotion in the background and the person from Viva was telling me that my husband was having difficulty breathing. I got to talk to him one last time and his last words were, 'Terry, *nahihirapan akong huminga. Makipag*-coordinate *ka sa* Viva, ha?' Then the line went dead."

Fifteen minutes later she received another call from Viva saying they had taken Gonzaga to the Santa Monica Hospital in Marikina, about 10 minutes away from the studio. It took Terry about 30 minutes of a taxi ride from United Parañaque to Marikina, but she was too late. Gonzaga had succumbed to cardiac arrest several minutes before she arrived.



HOST Edu Manzano was expected to visit the wake of contestant Gonzaga.

FILE PHOTO

"According to the doctors he was already blue when they brought him in and that his last words were for the doctors to do everything because he did not want to die yet as his children were still small," she said. Their children are Joshua, 18, a freshman at the Philippine Military Academy, Edward, 8, Therese, 3, and Bernard Alvin, 1½.

Game show lover

Gonzaga was the type of person who did not want to inconvenience other people, according to his Manila Science High School classmate Jack Bausa. "He was always very helpful," Bausa said. "You could go to him and be assured that he would do everything within his means to help."

A few months ago, Gonzaga was a contestant in "Game Ka Na Ba?" He had told friends that if he won, he would give the medical showcase to the son of a high school teacher who was undergoing dialysis. Unfortunately, he got eliminated, but he went on to raise the P40,000 for the boy's dialysis.

"He really loved to watch those game shows," Terry said.

The day before he died, they had a rehearsal of the actual taping at the Viva offices in Quezon City and Gonzaga was deemed the strongest link.

"It hurt us when we read all those wrong accounts in the papers about how he was nervous or when they referred to him as the weakest link," the widow said. "They never even interviewed me at all and I found out that they were quoting me left and right."

Tumor

Terry is thankful to the Viva staff for staying with her until her husband's body was taken to the mortuary.

She said her family's only wish was for game show host Edu Manzano to come to Gonzaga's wake in Don Bosco. Manzano was supposed to visit last Saturday night, the eve of the burial.

Three years ago, Gonzaga was diagnosed with a rare type of cancer called malignant peripheral nerve sheath tumor (MPNST). He had a tumor in the left thigh that grew quite fast and once became so bad that he had to literally drag his leg, according to his widow. MPNST is said to be a type that would not respond to chemotherapy, but he went through two chemo cycles. The tumor went into remission two years ago.

"He was very grateful because it was like a second lease on life and he swore that he would try to help as many people as he could," Terry said. At the time of his death, he was on medication for kidney stones.

Two weeks before the "Weakest Link" taping, the tumor on Gonzaga's leg began to grow and hurt again. "He was due to see the doctor after the show," Terry said.

Real firearms, toys seized in Camanava

AUTHORITIES confiscated about 80 assorted firearms as well as toy guns as part of their preparation for the gun ban for the July 15 barangay elections.

According to Supt. Vidal Querol, chief of the Northern Police District, the real firearms included original and homemade shotguns, caliber .45, .9 mm and .38 revolvers.

He said his men seized the firearms in the Caloocan-Malabon-Valenzuela (Camanava) area.

The policemen also confiscated about 50 toy guns, including replicas of caliber .45s, which petty criminals have been known to use in robberies.

Querol said the owners of the real firearms were immediately charged with illegal possession of firearms and with violation of the Omnibus Election Code.

The policemen also arrested 12 men from Malabon during the city's "Oplan Sita," the campaign against unlicensed firearms.

Other civilians arrested during the operation came from Caloocan, Navotas and Valenzuela. ***Tina Santos***

Nayon concessionaires win TRO

By Christian V. Esguerra

A PASAY City court has ordered Nayong Pilipino management not to evict its concessionaires in connection with the scheduled closure of the theme park tomorrow.

The temporary restraining order issued on Friday by Judge Henrick Gingoyon also barred the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) from taking over 8.6 hectares of the theme park, according to Oliver Lozano, the lawyer of the concessionaires.

In his order, Gingoyon said the concessionaires could be evicted from the theme park only through a court order or if they would voluntarily relinquish their right to occupy the property.

"Since plaintiffs refuse to voluntarily leave the premises and there is no court order yet...there is no basis to oust them therefrom," his ruling said.

Nayong Pilipino was supposed to be closed tomorrow to give way to the construction of a parallel taxiway and an access road for the new Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. Nayon management had sold 8.6 hectares of the park to the MIAA.

A memorandum of agreement on the sale of the property for P500 million was signed last May 8.

In his petition for preliminary injunction, Lozano said Presidential Decree No. 37, the law that created the Nayong Pilipino Foundation in 1972, prohibits the foundation from selling even a portion of the park "without the previous authorization by the President of the Republic of the Philippines."

Despite this prohibition, Lozano said, Nayon executive director Charito Planas entered into a MOA with airport management.

"She knew from the beginning that she needs President Macapagal-Arroyo's nod but she proceeded with the selling of Nayon anyway," Lozano said.

A draft proclamation restoring the Nayon property to MIAA has yet to be signed by the President, since its first endorsement last Feb. 21, he said.

Here's an epidemic the Filipino badly needs

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

Seremban, Malaysia—He made the wish sounding very, very envious. Manny Lopez, heir to former Manila mayor Mel Lopez, was wondering when we would ever be visited by this sort of epidemic in Manila?

Manny, president of the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines, was an amazed witness of how the World Cup fever has gripped this quiet retreat town, which is only an hour by car from Kuala Lumpur but which looks and feels a couple of lifetime divorced from the cruel hustle and bustle of noisy and cluttered modern capitals.

Ancient trees, towering and magnificent, are everywhere and you could hear the sighing of the forest as you move about this placid place.

Of course, even these great trees now appear tousled and affected by the football craze that has gripped practically the whole of Asia, and a great many other countries, except poor Philippines.

***

Indeed, a Korean, an Englishman, a Brazilian or any foreigner caught in Manila this time of the year would be dumbfounded to realize that the Pinoy doesn't give a hoot about the World Cup, the greatest sporting spectacle on earth that comes once only every four years.

At least that's how it should look and feel back home where, unlike in practically all other cities in the world, World Cup games are not being beamed live, except in very exclusive places.

While the whole world waits, and often stands still at the height of major World Cup games, like last week's Brazil vs England match, Filipinos, except maybe for a handful, go about their chores as though they don't know what the World Cup is all about.

Yes, other peoples skip jobs, stay up late, lose sleep and appetite to follow games as though the fate of the world is being decided in Japan and Korea, World Cup host countries.

***

There's a World Cup epidemic all over world, except in the Philippines.

For proof, read this report from the Sun Daily datelined Bukit Mertajam: "Punsters desperate for cash to bet on World Cup football matches are mortgaging their cars for half the market value. The instant winners are used-car dealers who make a handsome profit by selling the cars of defaulters. With World Cup fever in full swing, such deals have risen in number."

The report said dealers expect the number to increase as the stakes get higher and the competition enters the semifinal and final stages.

"They are desperate for money and are willing to risk losing their cars in order to gamble," said one dealer. "Some even use money borrowed to 'roll' and have signed a month's term to settle the loan at the end of the World Cup tournament."

The final match will be played on June 30.

***

Parliamentary meetings out here start often late these days, with the speaker first reporting on the progress of World Cup games.

The draw for fighters from 29 countries in the current 21st Asian Amateur Boxing Championship here opened last week with a sympathy statement for Japan and warm congratulations for South Korea.

Then, at the height of the Korea-Spain match on Saturday, a small cubicle that served as boxers' changing room in the Paroi stadium became an instant main stadium as Asian officials and athletes gathered before a flickering television screen the size of a Time magazine cover.

Practically the whole of Asia was represented in that clogged cubicle where divergent citizens swooned and swayed for a great part of the steamy afternoon.

Everybody held his breath when the penalty kick-off commenced, then the suspenseful silence erupted into a deafening roar when Korea emerged victorious.

Asians of different scent and symbols caught in that most unusual situation embraced and congratulated one another as though they had all taken a hand in liberating their nation.

***

The joy in that unforgettable afternoon among Asians who met only for the first time was immeasurable.

But what more about the euphoria in downtown Seoul?

And what about all over Brazil, mainly in Rio, after the Samba Kings dumped the Beefeaters from England in the biggest World Cup quarterfinal match?

Manny Lopez, after having caught the fever here, swore the Pinoy doesn't know what he's missing.

He also wondered out loud if we would ever experience a football renaissance in Manila during our lifetime.

Maybe not even in the lifetime of our grandchildren, he was told.

If football has to be revived — the Philippines used to be a soccer power in the region — maybe we would have to totally change our diet and culture.

Maybe the government would have to declare martial law and ram football down the throat of mindless basketball fanatics.

***

It's totally impossible to sell football to the Pinoy today.

For one thing, the game that could hardly produce more than two goals in 90 minutes of action cannot appeal to the Pinoy who has been hopelessly addicted to basketball.

Football will definitely be very boring to Filipino fans because, unlike in basketball where cheap goals come in practically every ball possession, you score in football only if you have found the proverbial needle in a haystack.

Sending in a goal in football, after all the constant labors on the field, is therefore often treated like the emergence of an oil mine, as often defined with immense joy in World Cup triumphs.

Yes, we definitely need to again embrace this game that could help our sunken culture; unfortunately, there's no hope for football to again thrive in the Philippines.

Why? Because the game strictly requires discipline, team spirit, strict role designation and, above all, loads and loads of selflessness and hard work.

Sorry, World Cup, you're badly needed in Manila but you don't play easy. You are very un-Pinoy.

FERNANDO

Recycling…

From page A25

he said. "But we don't make money this way."

He said lawmakers should reconsider and review the country's environmental laws "in the light of the hard facts."

He also noted that materials recovery facilities (MRFs) in the country have not been making money and that compost from these facilities has been rotting.

"No one wants it (compost) even if it's offered for free," he said.

He pointed out the large costs involved in educating the population in recycling and segregation. "Just to educate around 10.4 million people in Metro Manila, the costs is tremendous," he said.

Fernando said he favors a sanitary landfill. "We can consider it as storage rather than dumping," he said.

Sanitary landfills can hold nonbiodegradable materials while "we are waiting for the technology to recycle them efficiently," he said.

The new MMDA chair also said he wants to coordinate the collection of garbage among cities to make it more efficient.

"The garbage collection needs fine-tuning," he said. "We need proper timing for people to put their garbage bags out on the street for collection. We need a standard procedure for the whole metropolis, for all 17 cities and municipalities in Metro Manila."

LET THE FUN BEGIN!
Mayor Lito Atienza bangs together two pot lids to signal the opening of the four-day food festival at the Roxas Boulevard promenade in Manila, which ends today, the 431st birthday of the city. With the mayor are his councilor son Kim, wife Evelina and some of the chefs from the 17 participating hotels and restaurants.

Shooting victim cries 'ouch!'

By Philip C. Tubeza

"ARAY (Ouch)!" was the last word uttered by sidecar driver Augusto Ferrer, 40, when an unidentified man shot him in the head in Manila yesterday morning, police said.

The gunman pumped three more bullets into Ferrer's body to finish him off, police said.

Ferrer, of San Andres Bukid, Manila, did not make it alive to the hospital, said Detective Edison Bertoldo of the Western Police District homicide section.

Bertoldo described the suspect as between 30 and 40 years old, 5-foot-8 to 5-foot9, and dark-skinned.

Ferrer was with his sidecar at the corner of Alabastro and Zobel Roxas streets, where shanties had been demolished, when he was shot. He was apparently waiting for his neighbors to hire his sidecar to move their possessions, police said.

Detective Bertoldo said the gunman appeared from behind and shot Ferrer in the back of the head at 9:50 a.m. Ferrer shouted "*Aray!* and he felt his bleeding head with his hands, the detective said.

Ferrer then collapsed on the roadside, but the gunman shot him three more times before escaping, Bertoldo said.

Investigators were checking out reports that Ferrer had quarreled with other sidecar drivers in a nearby pedicab terminal.

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3	
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8	DISKARTE

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3	MAGKAPATID
4	

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2	
3	

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4	DISKARTE

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SNEAK PREVIEW

"BAD COMPANY"
ANTHONY HOPKINS
CHRIS ROCK
Date: June 24 & 25, 2002
THEATERS:
Gotesco City, Gotesco Grand, Gotesco Commonwealth, Gotesco Ortigas, Festival Alabang, All Mall

"LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT"
ANGELINA JOLIE
EDWARD BURNS
R-TIME: 1:43 RATING: PG-13
Date: June 24 & 25, 2002
THEATERS:
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8	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .

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3	SCOOBY DOO
4	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5	SUM OF ALL FEARS
6	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
7	BAD COMPANY
8	SUM OF ALL FEARS
9	A WALK TO REMEMBER
10	DISKARTE

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1	MONSTER'S BALL
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SCOOBY DOO
5	SUM OF ALL FEARS
6	BAD COMPANY
7	SUM OF ALL FEARS
8	SCOOBY DOO
9	DISKARTE
10	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
11	MAMASAN
12	MAGKAPATID

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1	SCOOBY DOO
2	SUM OF ALL FEARS
3	SCOOBY DOO
4	A WALK TO REMEMBER
5	MONSTER'S BALL
6	BAD COMPANY
7	DISKARTE
8	SUM OF ALL FEARS
9	MAGKAPATID
10	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
11	MAGKAPATID
12	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .

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3	SUM OF ALL FEARS
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5	MONSTER'S BALL
6	SUM OF ALL FEARS
7	SCOOBY DOO
8	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
9	MAGKAPATID
10	BAD COMPANY
11	DISKARTE
12	I THINK I'M IN LOVE

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2	BAD COMPANY
3	DISKARTE
4	MAGKAPATID
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6	MONSTER'S BALL
7	SCOOBY DOO
8	SUM OF ALL FEARS
9	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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3	SCOOBY DOO
4	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
5	MONSTER'S BALL
6	MAMASAN
7	MAGKAPATID
8	SUM OF ALL FEARS
9	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
10	BAD COMPANY

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1	PANIC ROOM
2	SUM OF ALL FEARS
3	DRAGONFLY
4	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
6	MAMASAN
7	MAGKAPATID
8	SCOOBY DOO

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1	CASS & CARRY
2	CLOSED
3	SCOOBY DOO
4	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5	SUM OF ALL FEARS
6	MAGKAPATID
7	CLOSED
8	LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .

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2	SCOOBY DOO
3	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5	DISKARTE
6	MAGKAPATID

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
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1	MAGKAPATID
2	SUM OF ALL FEARS
3	SCOOBY DOO
4	BAD COMPANY

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2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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1	SUM OF ALL FEARS
2	SCOOBY DOO
3	MAGKAPATID
4	DISKARTE

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1	SUM OF ALL FEARS
2	MAGKAPATID
3	JIHAD WARRIOR
4	CASS & CARRY
5	DRAGONFLY
6	SCOOBY DOO

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3
4

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7	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
8	MAGKAPATID
9	RESIDENT EVIL
10	DISKARTE

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1	SUM OF ALL FEARS
2	DISKARTE
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	A WALK TO REMEMBER
5	MAGKAPATID
6	MONSTER BALL
7	SCOOBY DOO

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1	DISKARTE
2	SCOOBY DOO
3	SUM OF ALL FEARS
4	MONSTER BALL
5	SUM OF ALL FEARS
6	SCOOBY DOO
7	A WALK TO REMEMBER
8	MAGKAPATID

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1	SUM OF ALL FEARS
2	SCOOBY DOO
3	RESIDENT EVIL
4	SUPER B
5	MAGKAPATID
6	MONSTER BALL
7	A WALK TO REMEMBER
8	DISKARTE

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1	SUM OF ALL FEARS
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3	MONSTER BALL
4	SCOOBY DOO
5	DISKARTE
6	MAGKAPATID

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1	SUM OF ALL FEARS
2	SCOOBY DOO
3	MAGKAPATID
4	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
5	JIHAD WARRIOR
6	RESIDENT EVIL

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

From young singing star to creditable actress

WHEN we heard that young singing star **Mandy Moore** was starring in a film, "A Walk to Remember," we thought that the movie was just one of those light, bright but brittle star showcases designed to help a pop star move over to film territory.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

You know the type of film with slim storylines that serve as mere frames on which to hang numerous musical production numbers that bank on the young star's proven singing skill, just in case her acting ability turns out to be virtually nonexistent?

Well, in "A Walk to Remember," Mandy Moore has only a few musical moments, and none of them are what you would describe as production numbers. Rather than going the big, brassy musical route, she decides to concentrate on her acting, and acquits herself creditably in this new facet of her performing career.

In "A Walk to Remember," Moore is cast as a preacher's daughter who is the butt of cruel jokes at her high school. The other students think she's too conservative for words, an opinion shared by a young ruffian who later ends up as her best friend, and truest love.

Just by being the simple person she is, Moore is able to transform her sullen beau from delinquent to achiever. Along the way, he drops his hip friends, who can't understand why such a popular campus figure like him would settle for his dull, new soulmate.

The film does fairly well up to this point, but goes into melodramatic overdrive when the script adds a new, turgid dimension to its emotional brew: it reveals that Moore's character is terribly ill, and that her days are numbered.

This incursion into treacly "Love story" territory is a bleating cry for sympathy that distends the movie's progression, and compromises its genuinely empathetic emotional and character development.

But Moore should be credited for the proficient work she turns in for most of the movie. Stripped of show biz gloss in this film, she shows that she can act from the heart, and doesn't need much else to hold an audience's empathetic attention.

'Pay It Forward' on HBO

"Pay It Forward," starring **Kevin Spacey**, **Helen Hunt** and **Haley Joel Osment**, will be shown on the HBO channel at 9 p.m. on June 29. It tells the heartwarming tale of an 11-year-old boy who comes up with a utopian idea for a school project.

His history teacher (Spacey) urges his class to come up with an idea that will change the world, and is bowled over when the boy (Osment) does exactly that.

His idea: every person who benefits from someone else's good deed should "pay it forward" instead of paying it back, and should in turn offer favors to three other people.

Hunt plays Osment's mother, a recovering alcoholic with a history of loss and abuse.

Sneak previews

Angelina Jolie's new starrer, the romantic comedy "Life or Something Like It," will have sneak previews on June 24 and 25 in selected theaters.

In the inspiring film, Jolie's character questions her priorities in life after a psychic tells her she will die in a week's time.

The prediction hits her really hard because, all these years, she has focused on ambition and success. Now that her days may be drastically numbered, she has to see life in a completely new perspective—before her time runs out.

This is a tall order, but Jolie's character has to face up to it. Screenwriter **Dana Stevens** observes, "I think if you were told you were going to die in a week, you'd feel, in a certain sense, incredibly liberated—like you can do anything, because nothing matters anymore.

"But, on the other hand, you might also want to make connections, and experience important moments that perhaps you never got to have."

This movie is a change of pace for Angelina Jolie, who in her past films has tended to favor quirky rather than sensitive characters. All the more reason, then, to watch this film, to see if she can make the shift look natural and believable.

Vitamins, 'Sex,' Desire and Orgasm that can make you bloom

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I'VE been good about drinking my vitamin C and vitamin E supplements.

My doctor encouraged me to do this to help strengthen my resistance. The best time to drink them is with breakfast. In my case, that's lunch since I'm admittedly not a morning person.

So far, so good. Whether the supplements are psychologically or truly physically beneficial, I noticed that my coughing has almost been eradicated, and my skin does look better. Now all I have to do is get some regular exercise.

I should really start playing tennis again with my "sinister sister," **Boy Abunda**. Come on, Boy, let's start sweating!

Zsa Zsa (Padilla), who's doing heart-healthy activities like using the treadmill, and doing tae bo as well as yoga, was encouraging me to eat more fish and vegetables, especially fish with fatty portions like milkfish, because this is really good for the heart and in fighting cholesterol. Unfortunately, I'm really a meat lover, but I've been trying to eat more sardines.

I don't know if it counts, but I love bottled gourmet *tuyo* and *tinapa* in lemon and garlic from My Angels' Kitchen. My manager **Deo (Edrinal)** keeps me supplied with them and they are delicious, quick meal alternatives.

Season of 'Sex'

> The best thing about having the videos is that you can rewind and replay your favorite scenes so that you can better understand the dialogue

From his recent trip to the US where he performed with the "Tabing Ilog" love teams, **John Lapus**, who is sweet to all of us close to him, brought me back the complete third season of "Sex and the City."

When you watch the episodes in succession, you'll really appreciate the progression of the story, most importantly Carrie Bradshaw's complicated relationship with Mr. Big. It's a fictional but effective wake-up call to weigh the risks in "going for it."

Personally, I love Aidan. He is sweet, genuinely kind, cute in a huggable-big-bear-of-a-man way, artistically creative, reliable, and understanding. In other words, the near-perfect boyfriend. I was getting irritated with Carrie for cheating on him, all for someone who had managed to hurt her so deeply in the past.

Granted that Mr. Big is elegant and roguishly charming, he didn't love Carrie enough to make a commitment with her. He has put her through the emotional wringer, and yet she couldn't get him out of her system.

That's why in the Season 4 episodes that are currently airing on HBO every Tuesday night, Aidan's initial resistance to Carrie's overtures is understandable.

I cried when Aidan told her at his doorstep that it wasn't a good time for her to come in or hang out, and still Carrie persisted and insisted on knowing why Aidan was shutting her out. And he blurted out, "Because you broke my heart."

I felt that was really spectacular television writing. Simple words, real emotions, and a complicated situation evoke exactly what a "true" relationship can be.

But, in last Thursday's episode, they're back together, and Carrie expressed it best when she said that Aidan needed "to forgive" her.

Fashion statements

The best thing about having the videos is that you can rewind and replay your favorite scenes so that you can better understand the dialogue and, to be honest about it, appreciate their fashion statements.

The women always have colorful, eye-catching designer handbags and creatively coordinated strappy sandals. They have beautiful accessories, especially their almost shoulder-sweeping earrings.

Carrie always has rosy cheeks. In one scene where she opened her bedside drawers, I saw the unmistakable black Nars cosmetics packaging. Like a true fan, I was thrilled that we used the same make-up.

Nars can be purchased at Essenses in Glorietta, and I'm devoted to their blush-ons, specifically Desire and Orgasm. Just like their naughty names, they give you an unmistakably sexy glow.

I wasn't much of a blush-on fan until I realized that people would say that I was "blooming" more often when I had the barest hint of eye make-up, a light lipstick, but a sweep of blush on the apples of my cheeks. Blush really does help distract people from noticing that you're under the weather, because blush makes you appear sun-kissed and youthful.

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Heartaches and other pains, hope, and failed affairs as sung by Pops

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

WHAT kind of album befits a "Concert Queen"?

Album producer **Margot Gallardo** considered this when she and songwriter **Edith Gallardo** produced **Pops Fernandez'** album.

Pops admits she liked the Edith-Margot collaboration that produced **Aiza Seguerra**'s multi-platinum hit, "Pagdating ng Panahon."

"I was inspired by that song," Pops shares. "It's beautiful. I thought something like that would suit me."

She initially thought of producing her own album. "But when I approached Edith, it turned out it would be easier for them to compile the songs for me," she says.

The very prolific Edith wrote the lyrics and collaborated with The CompanY's **Moy Ortiz** for the music in eight original ballads. **Louie Ocampo** supplied the music in one cut, "Bago ang Lahat." The songs are all included in "The Way I Feel Inside," a 12-track album.

"It's a well-produced album," Pops beams. "The songs are very commercial."

In the album's inside-back cover, Margot wrote in the producer's note that she had a dilemma when Pops first approached her and Edith. "Think about it," Margot wrote. "Pops has already done several recordings before and she holds the title 'Concert Queen' for the longest time. What more could I do for her? It seems that she has done almost everything."

But the tandem was not hard to convince to work with Pops, whose last outing was her concert album, "Shindig Live," which followed her Viva Records debut, the retro album "Moments." Pops recorded original tunes for "Nagmamahal Pa Rin sa 'Yo," which Star Records released five years ago.

Pops even prompted Margot and Edith to come up with their own label, Pop Art Music, which debuts with "The Way I Feel Inside," also from Viva Records.

"It's my most personal album so far," says Pops.

She is very pleased to have worked with Edith and Margot. "In fact, it didn't feel like work," she says. "They're so open to ideas and suggestions, and they work so fast. I was so impressed.

"During recording breaks, I would simply tell Edith how I wanted the song, the sentiments and the story that went with it. By the time I recorded a cut, she had already written the lyrics for another piece, and those were exactly what I wanted. Within a few days, Moy gave the song to us with the beautiful music."

In the album acknowledgement, Pops thanked Edith, Margot and Moy, as well as back-up singer **Babsie Molina**. She wrote, "To one of the most sought-after musical teams, thanks for the songs and the trust you have given me. Thanks for sharing your talents with me."

Pops wrote notes for every track in the album. She says the cuts are "simple songs that bring back memories, ease hurts, inspire and remind us that there is a tomorrow."

"The songs are the feelings that I've been through, with no particular frustrations," Pops asserts. "My experiences in falling in love were enough inspiration for me to come up with this album. This is for all of us who are still anxious to find out what lies ahead."

For the title track, Pops revives the old favorite, "The Way I Feel Inside," which bookends the album as the opening and closing cut.

Pops requested one song from **Ogie Alcasid,** who gave her an old ballad he recorded but didn't get to promote, "Bakit Ka Lumayo." But Pops insisted that he write her a new, original piece. So Ogie gave her another Tagalog song, "Ikaw na nga Kaya."

The carrier track of the album is "Kaya Pala," a catchy ditty that says that even after a failed relationship, the right one will still come along.

Two of my own favorites in the album are the stirring ballads "Ano Ba ang Tama?" and "Nagkamali Ba ang Puso?" They are emotional songs with heart-wrenching lyrics about falling in love and going through pain and heartaches.

"Pa'no Ba 'Yon" is a poignant piece with a beautiful counterpoint and is better rendered as a duet. Maybe this will finally rest the saccharine hit, "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang" (which Pops also recorded with Freestyle).

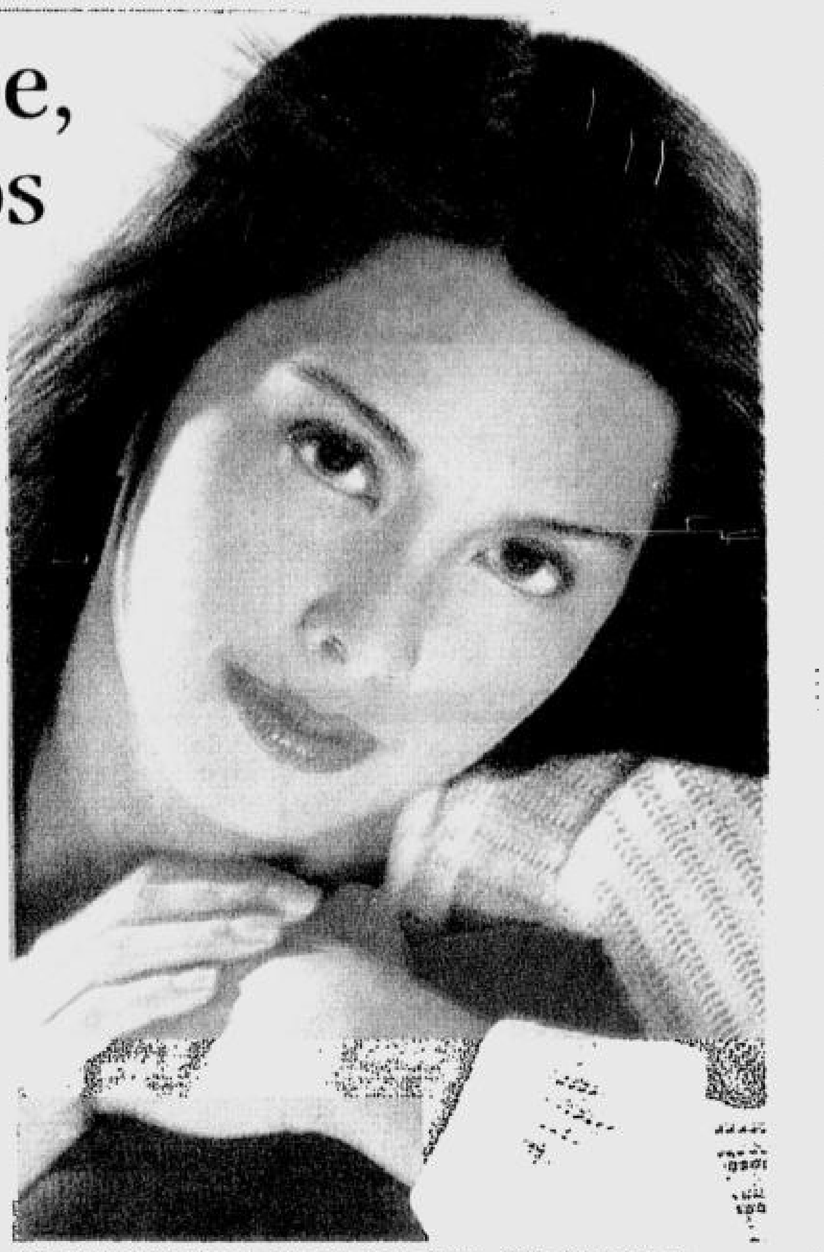
Pops says "Pa'no Ba 'Yon" is a song for friends who can't seem to reveal their feelings for each other.

"Can friends really be lovers?" she says. "If the person has always been there for you, should you take the risk of loving? Or will you lose him if things don't work out?"

Too bad that when the album was released, her avid fan **Mae Mendoza** had already left the country to work in the United States. Mae will be away for 10 months. The Sunday she was to leave Manila, she was still glued to her TV watching "Asap" at past 2 p.m., when her flight was at 4 p.m. I'll make sure she gets Pops' autographed copy of "The Way I Feel Inside."

Pops looked very proud of her latest album when she launched it on "Asap," two Sundays ago.

Now I know why.



FERNANDEZ. Proud of her latest album, "The Way I Feel Inside."

'SCOOBY-DOO'

All bark, no bite

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

REVIEW

WE TELL our kids that if you haven't got anything good to say about someone, you might as well not say anything at all. As children, we ourselves were told this.

Although I know the adage doesn't necessarily apply to movies and, for that matter, movie reviewers, I still always find myself trying to say something good about a film I don't particularly like.

In the case of "Scooby-Doo" I have to try pretty darn hard. It's not that my expectations are high. How can they be? The film is supposed to take off from a cartoon series that features a gang of four bumbling teeners and a talking dog.

The cartoon Scooby's animation is as economical as its storytelling is monotonous. A live-action version, at the very least, is expected to be an improvement. But "Scooby-Doo" is not. Cartoon Scooby is no great shakes, but I always had a snickering affection for it. Fred, Velma, Daphne, Shaggy and Scooby — certainly an odd and intriguing bunch — roaming around in a psychedelic van (The Mystery Machine) solving mystery after mystery. What kid will not find the concept irresistible?

Even now, every time my kids Jacob and Gabrielle ask to see cartoon Scooby, my face lights up with impish glee when I tune in to Cartoon Network or put a tape or disc in the machine.

That's funny?

I would have gladly settled for a longer version of the Scooby cartoon. That would have been better than this film, which, as a comedic high point, gives audiences a farting contest between Shaggy and Scooby. Kids are supposed to find that funny? It's no wonder the kids were running around in the cinema during the brief 90 minutes of the screening. That in itself is telling, because you know kids can sit through three episodes of their favorite cartoon and not even notice anything else happening around them.

The Scooby film is engaging enough the first 10 minutes as it begins with the traditional ending of any Scooby cartoon episode. A fake ghost is unmasked and the villain wearing the fright suit even says, "I would have gotten away with it if it wasn't for you meddling kids!"

Last mystery

The storyline isn't so bad either as it offers a

ALL BARK/ A31

COMPUTER-GENERATED Scooby is captivating, but the rest of the movie is not.

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'Amelie' regular screening at Shangri-La

THE 7th French film festival continues to attract audiences at Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong City.

The 20-day festival, featuring highly-acclaimed contemporary films from France, runs until June 25 with three films screened daily at the mall's Cinema 2.

Drama and comedy dominate this year's line up. Favorites are Patrice Lecomte's drama "Widow of St. Pierre," which stars Juliet Binoche ("Chocolat") as the Captain's wife who becomes obsessed with helping Neel Auguste (Emir Kusturica), found guilty of murder and awaiting guillotine; Francois Ozon's musical comedy "8 Women," a blockbuster in France which stars big names such as Catherine Daneuve, Virgine Ledoyen, Isabelle Huppert; and Etienne Chatiliez's "Tanguy," a funny film about a 28-year-old man named Tanguy (Eric Berger) who still lives at home and is asked to move out.

Catch other equally appealing French movies featured at the ongoing festival. A new addition is Francois Dupeyron's "The Officers' Ward," an exceptional and emotional take on wartime trauma, via a disguised French officer confined to a hospital ward for the duration of the first world war.

Zabou Breitman's "Se souvenir des Belles Choses" is a story about Claire, a young woman who lost her memory and learns to control and manage her handicap through the help of a doctor and other patients in a center where she also meets Philippe, who suffers from amnesia after losing his wife and child in a tragic car accident.

All films have English subtitles. Screening hours are 3 p.m., 5:30 and 8 p.m. Admission is P20.

The award-winning French film, "Amelie," which was featured at the opening gala of the festival, will have its regular screening starting June 26.

For schedule inquiries, call 635-2079 or 633-7851.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	DISKARTE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MAGKAPATID
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	SCOOBY-DOO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SUM OF ALL FEARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	A WALK TO REMEMBER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	MONSTERS BALL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SCOOBY-DOO
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	DISKARTE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX MEDUSA / HIYAS SA PARAISO
ODEON	SUM OF FEAR
ODEON-2	MAMASAN
ROBEN	DISKARTE
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	COLLATERAL DAMAGE / MIMIC-2
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MAMASAN
REMAR	DISKARTE
REMAR-2	MAMASAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	DISKARTE
B	MAGKAPATID
C	SUPER B
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SCOOBY-DOO
CINEMA-2	FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SUPER B
CINEMA-2	MAMASAN
CINEMA-3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SCOOBY DOO
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SUM OF ALL FEARS
CINEMA-6	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-7	RESIDENT EVIL
CINEMA-8	STAR WARS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SUM OF ALL FEARS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SCOOBY DOO
CINEMA-12	MONSTER'S BALL
CINEMA-14	DISKARTE
CINEMA-15	MAGKAPATID
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
CINEMA-2	SCOOBY DOO
CINEMA-3	SUM OF ALL FEARS
CINEMA-4	BAD COMPANY
CINEMA-5	MONSTER'S BALL
CINEMA-6	SUM OF ALL FEARS
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
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CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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BAD COMPANY - P13 12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50	MONSTER'S BALL - R18 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	SUM OF ALL FEARS - P13 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

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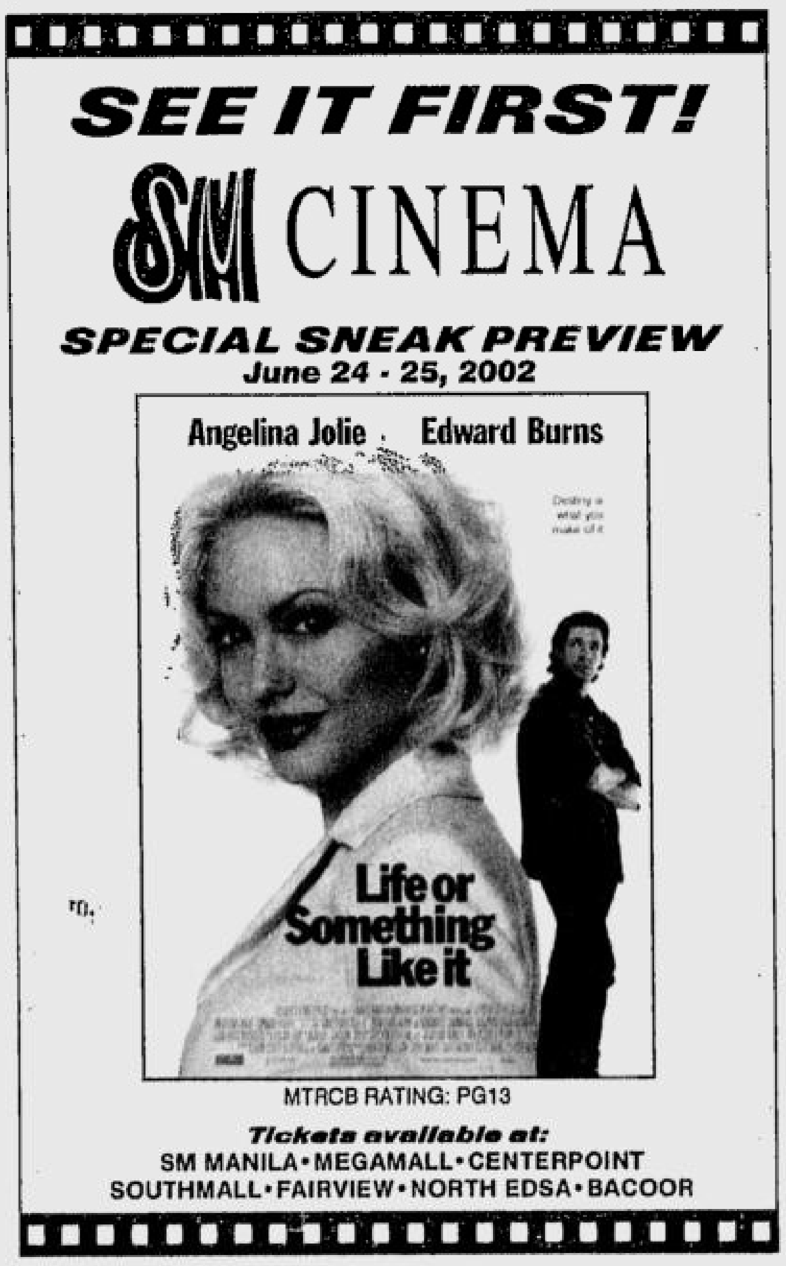

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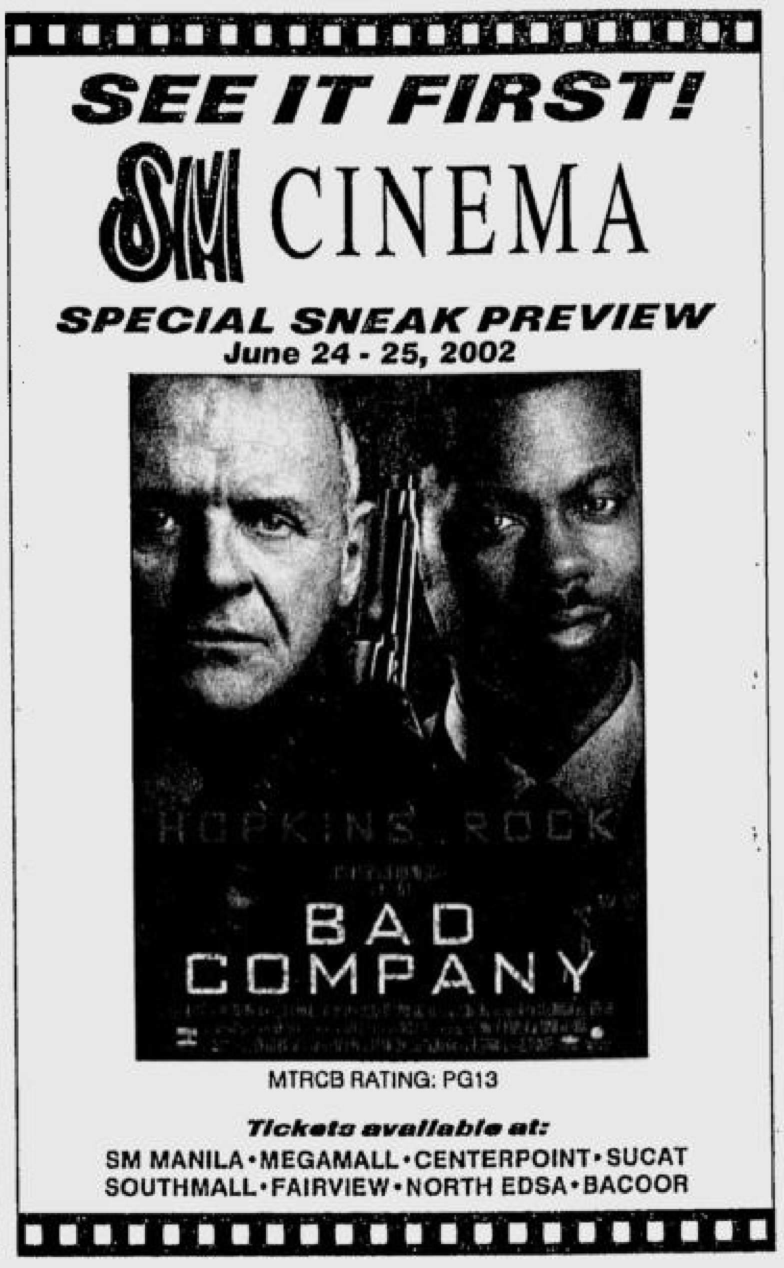

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All bark . . .

From page A29

few points of departure from the usual plot. There were very interesting possibilities in the way writers Craig Titley and James Gunn tinkered with cartoon Scooby's formula.

This time trouble is brewing in the ranks of Mystery Inc. Velma (Linda Cardellini), the bespectacled brains of the group, has had enough of the credit-grabbing and limelight-hogging persona of Fred (Freddie Prinze Jr. looking like one of the Children of the Corn). Daphne (Sarah Michelle Gellar of TV's "Buffy the Vampire Slayer") is sick and tired of playing the damsel in distress and wants to take a more active role in cracking mystery cases.

But hunky, egotistic Fred doesn't want to budge an inch. The three quit the group, leaving only Scooby and Shaggy (Matthew Lillard) to carry on. After a two-year hiatus, however, Emile Mondavarious (Rowan Atkinson or Mr. Bean to most Filipinos), rich owner of an amusement park aptly called Spooky Island, gets them together again to solve one last mystery. Mondavarious wants to know why kids enter Spooky Island all rowdy and happy and leave like soulless zombies.

Trying too hard

The basic plot is real, typical Scooby fare, something both fans and non-fans could appreciate. The test to the gang's unwavering and never-before-challenged friendship is also a nice twist. But as with many a film adaptation, it's in the details that things get bogged down.

How could something so good turn so bad all of a sudden? I don't mind the flatulence humor. At least, it's somewhat akin to the slapstick sensibilities of the Scooby series. And at least, it hits me in a certain way (I'm disgusted).

But the film's writers and its director Raja Gosnell try just too hard to reach every demographic bracket they could. Oh, children would love this, let's put it in. And teenagers would love that. And how about something for the parents?

What comes out in the end is a hodgepodge of a film, perhaps worse than a bill that has just gone through a bicameral committee of Congress.

For instance, the filmmakers make drug references to Shaggy's hippie personality. In one scene, smoke rolls out of the sunroof of the Mystery van as we hear Shaggy telling Scooby, "This is real primo stuff!"

Shaggy also falls for a girl named Mary Jane who breathes into his mouth and makes him high. "Like that's my favorite name," he sighs.

Some of the original fans who are now grownups have long suspected the drug pretext. Shaggy has always been a bit too laid-back after all, and he does have a voracious appetite, plus the show was conceived at the end of the psychedelic '60s era.

Soul mixup

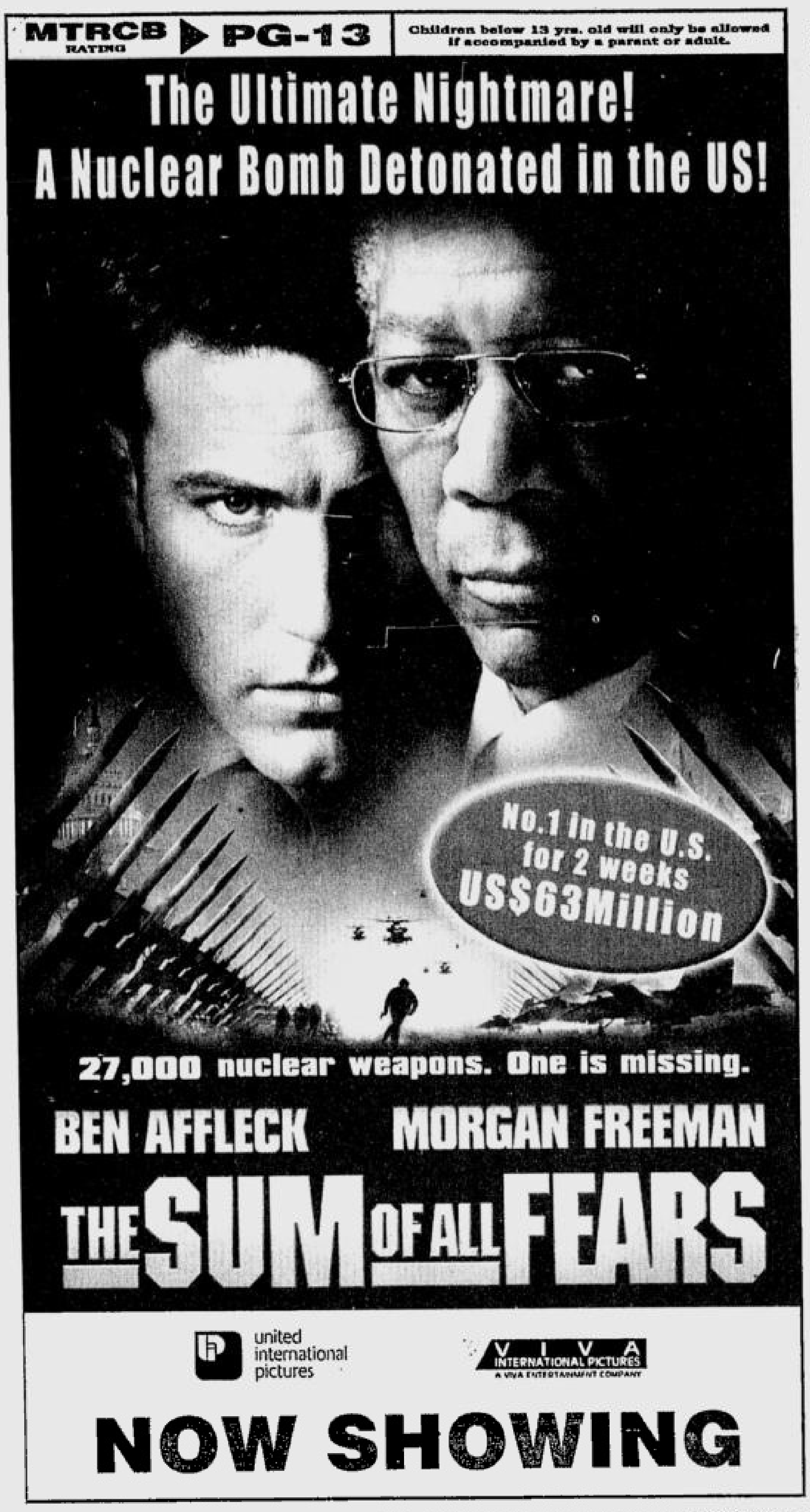
And surely there could have been a more (to use a popular Scooby term) "groovy" way of unraveling the mystery of Spooky Island, one that does not involve ancient soul-sucking devices, protoplasmic thievery, a villainous and expletive-prone Scrappy Doo (don't ask), and digitally rehashed monsters.

The filmmakers are so busy suffusing the atmosphere with over-the-top gimmickry that they don't bother to engage the audience's emotions (regardless of age). The latter half of the films works at no level at all.

There's just one funny scene involving the characters the rest of the way: when the Mystery gang's souls get mixed up with each other's bodies.

Such a waste of the excellent production design (Bill Boes, who worked with Tim Burton on "Sleepy Hollow" and "The Nightmare Before Christmas") and such a waste of teen stars. Cardellini and Lillard in particular are so dead-on in fleshing out Velma and Shaggy. Their performances, along with CGI Scooby, leave you with a bit of nostalgia and some pining for the real thing on TV.

Thank God for Cartoon Network.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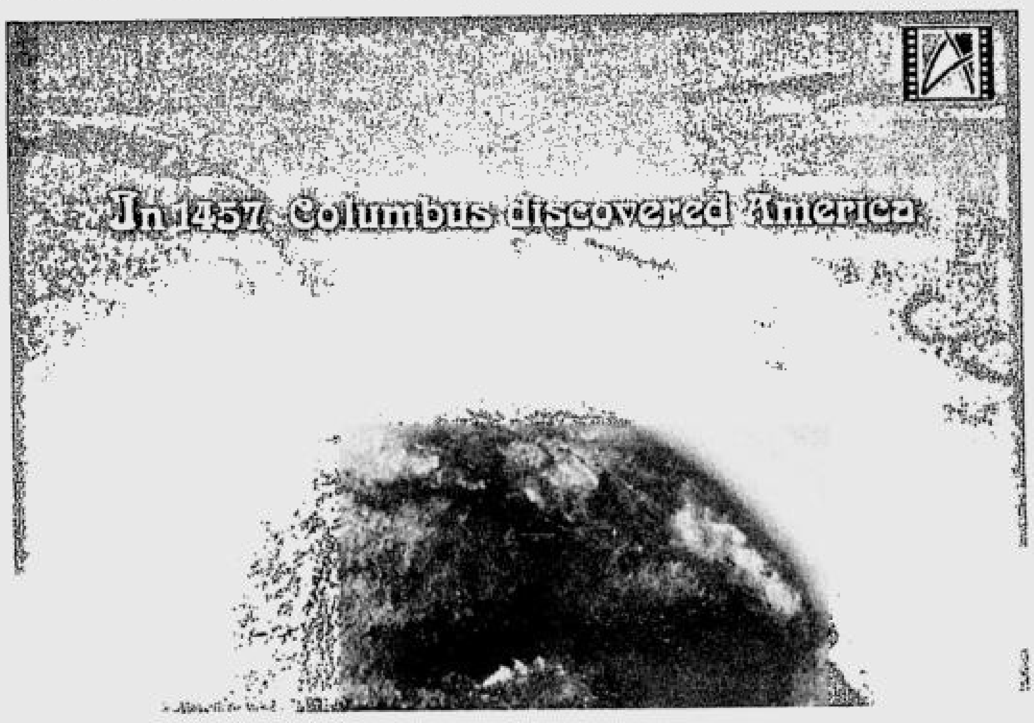
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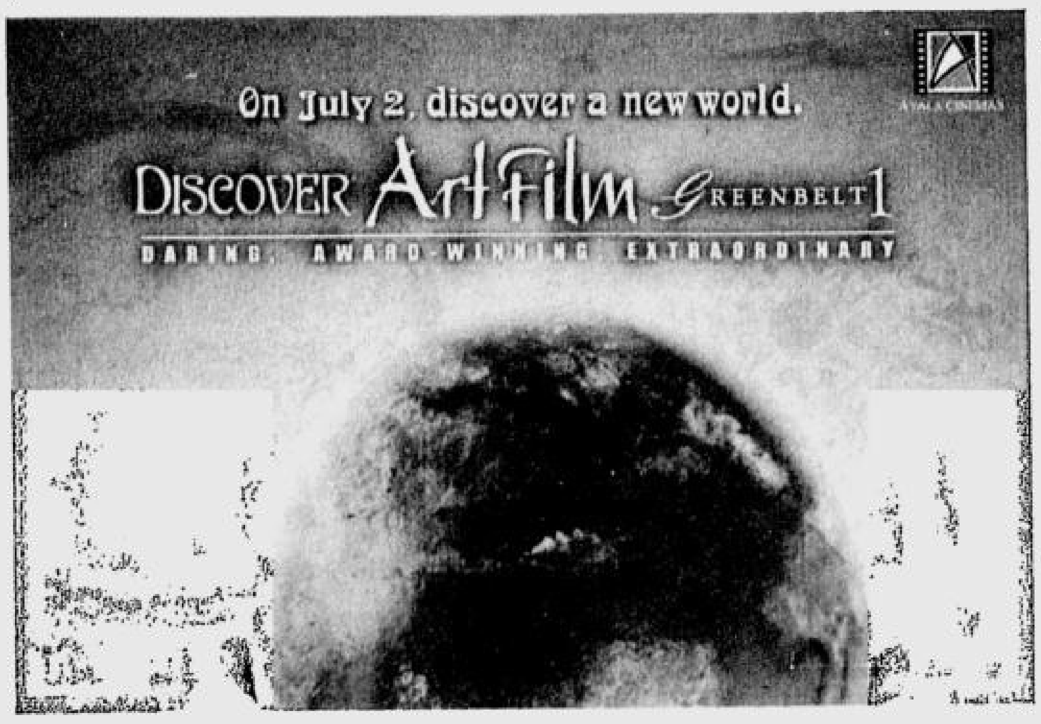
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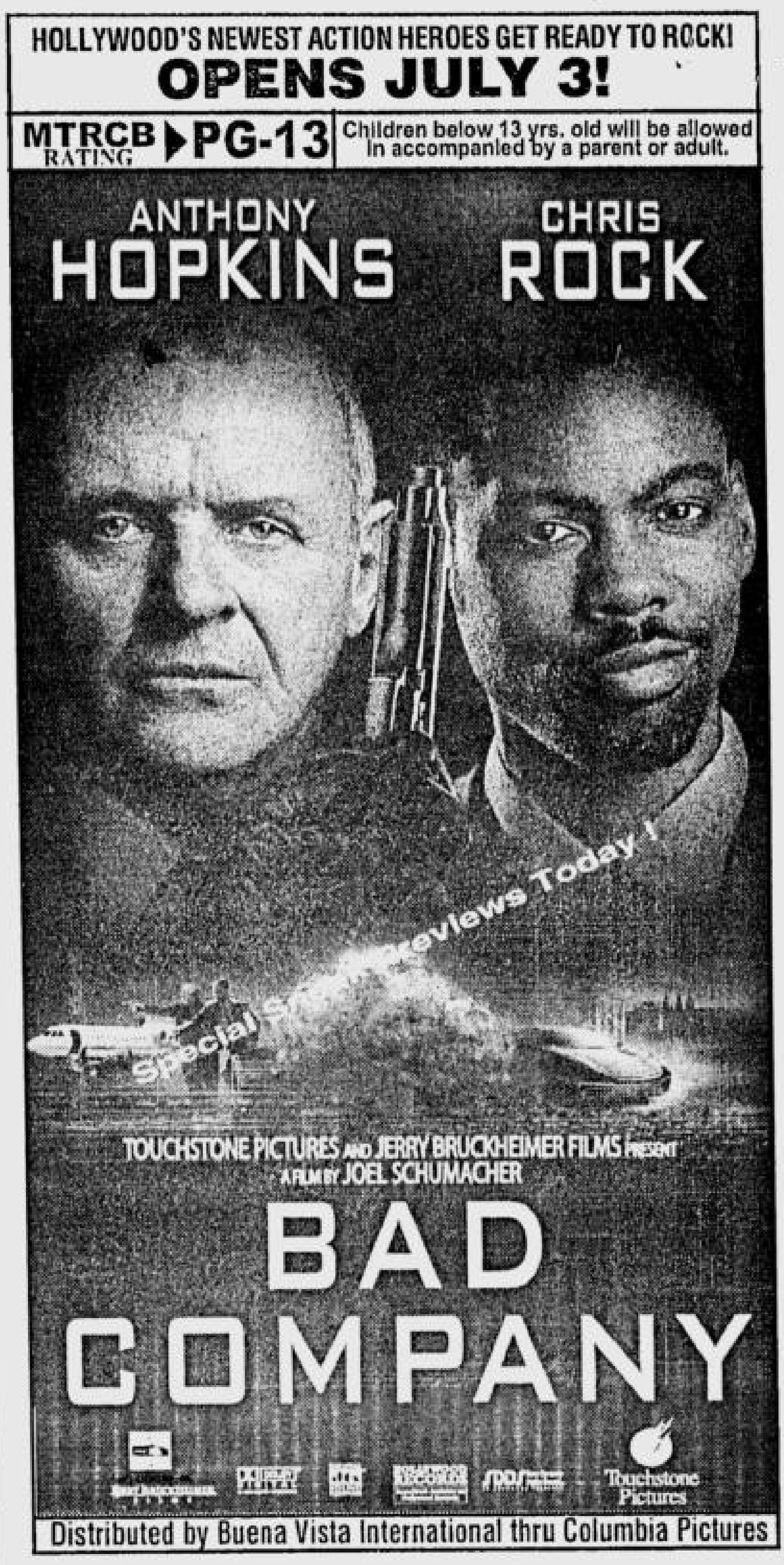
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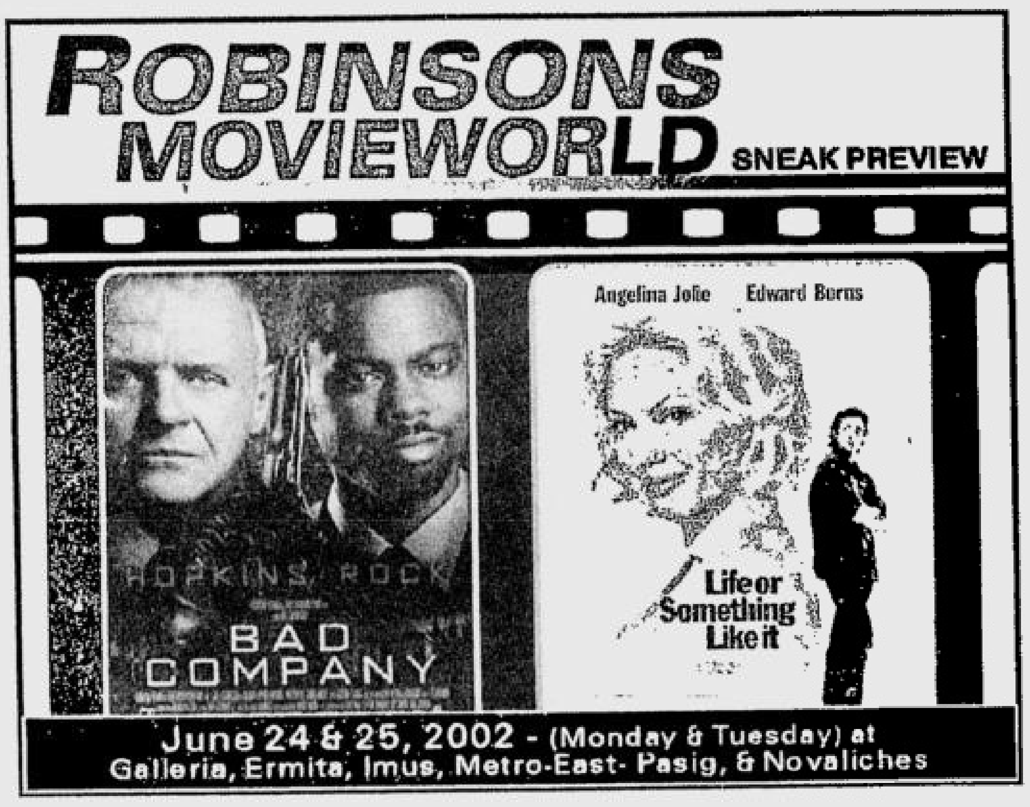
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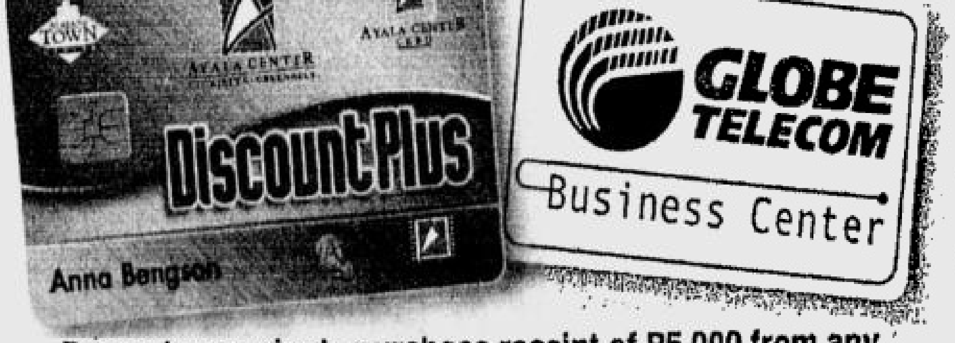

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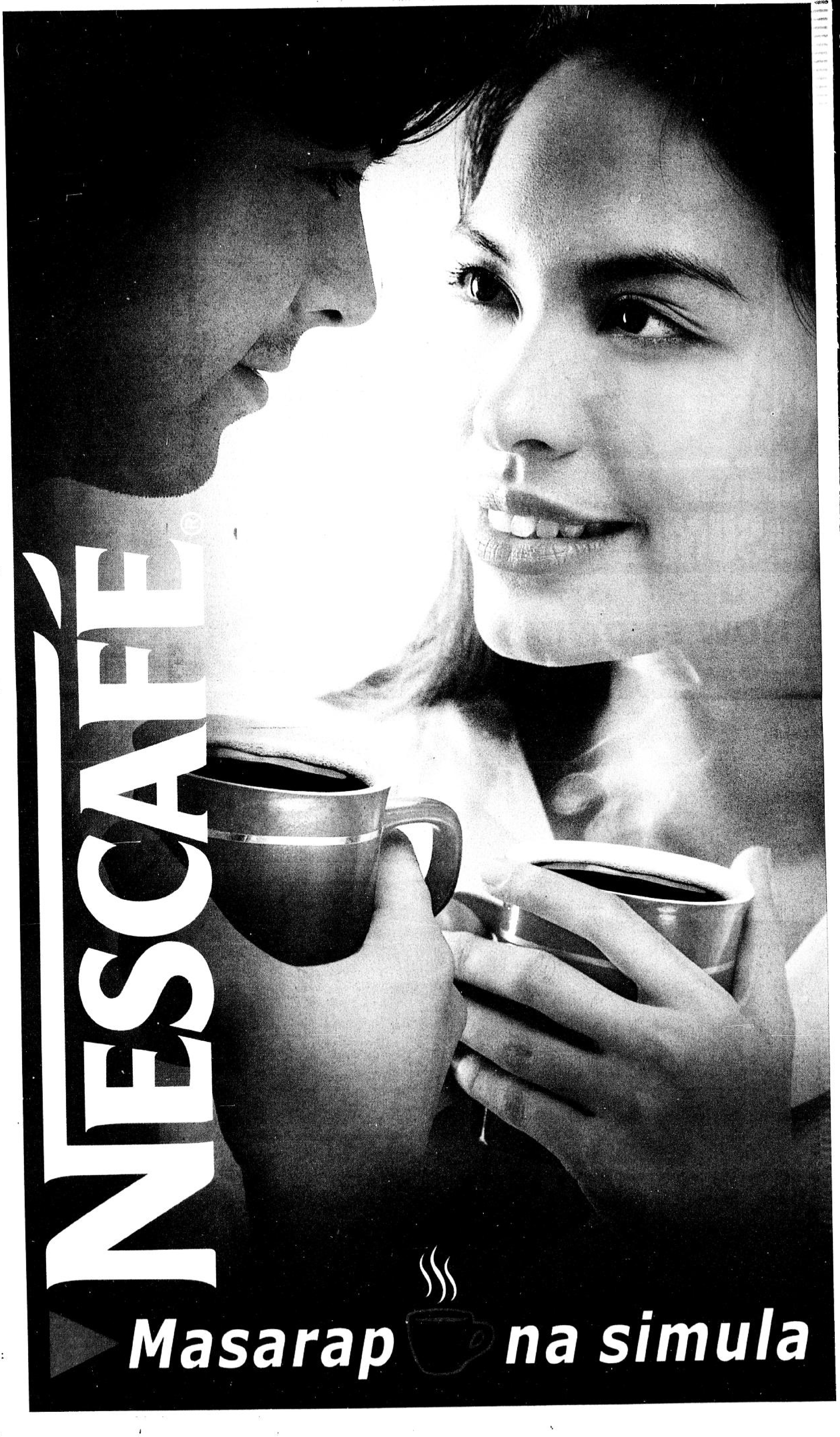
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Banks agree to convert NSC debt to equity

Reopening of mothballed steel plant in Iligan now likely

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

CREDITORS of National Steel Corp. have agreed to convert the bulk of their loans worth P16 billion to the steel giant to an 80-percent equity to pave the way for the reopening of NSC's Iligan steel factory, which has been idle since November 1999.

A government official privy to the discussions said the creditors' proposed debt-equity conversion would include the write-off of some P6 billion or nearly 40 percent of NSC's obligations.

The official said the combined debt-conversion and write-down would pare down NSC's debt to P2 billion and make it more attractive to prospective investors.

The official said the creditors' imprimatur on the debt restructuring program should move them closer to forging a memorandum of agreement with NSC majority owner Pengurusan Danaharta Nasional Bhd.

The official said discussions between creditors and Danaharta were now in their final stages as the Malaysian debt rehabilitation agency had accepted the reality that it must dilute its stake in order to salvage some of its assets. The government official said Danaharta's 82-percent equity in NSC would be diluted to 15 percent.

Danaharta was amenable to reducing its stake in NSC as long as it was allowed to maintain its veto powers on any major corporate decision in the post-rehabilitated NSC. The official said creditors have yet to decide on Danaharta's demands.

The holdings of minority shareholders National Developemt Co. (12.5 percent) and Marubeni Corp. (5 percent) are also expected be slashed to 4 percent and one percent, respectively, when the rehabilitation program is implemented.

NSC owes roughly P16 billion to 14 Philippine banks and financial institutions—Philippine National Bank, Allied Banking Corp., Land Bank of the Philippines, United Overseas Bank Philippines, Global Banking Corp., Bank of Commerce, China Banking Corp., Equitable PCI Bank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Traders Royal Bank, United Coconut Planters Bank, Urban Bank, Credit Agricole Indosuez and Wise Citco.

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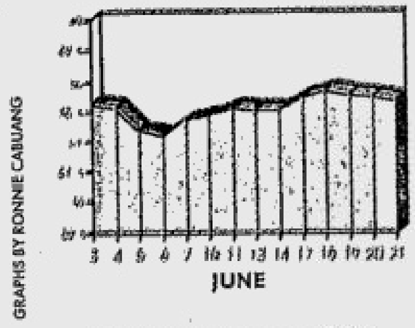


GRAPHS BY RONNIE CABUANG

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

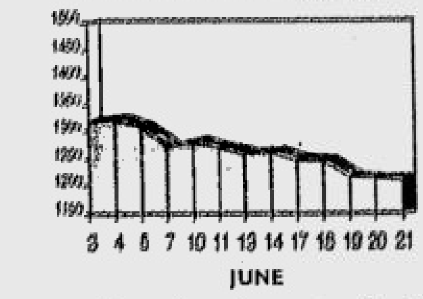
₱ 50.32 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 21, 2002

¥ 123.25 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 21, 2002

GOLD: $323.80/324.30
per ounce Hong Kong,
June 21, 2002

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

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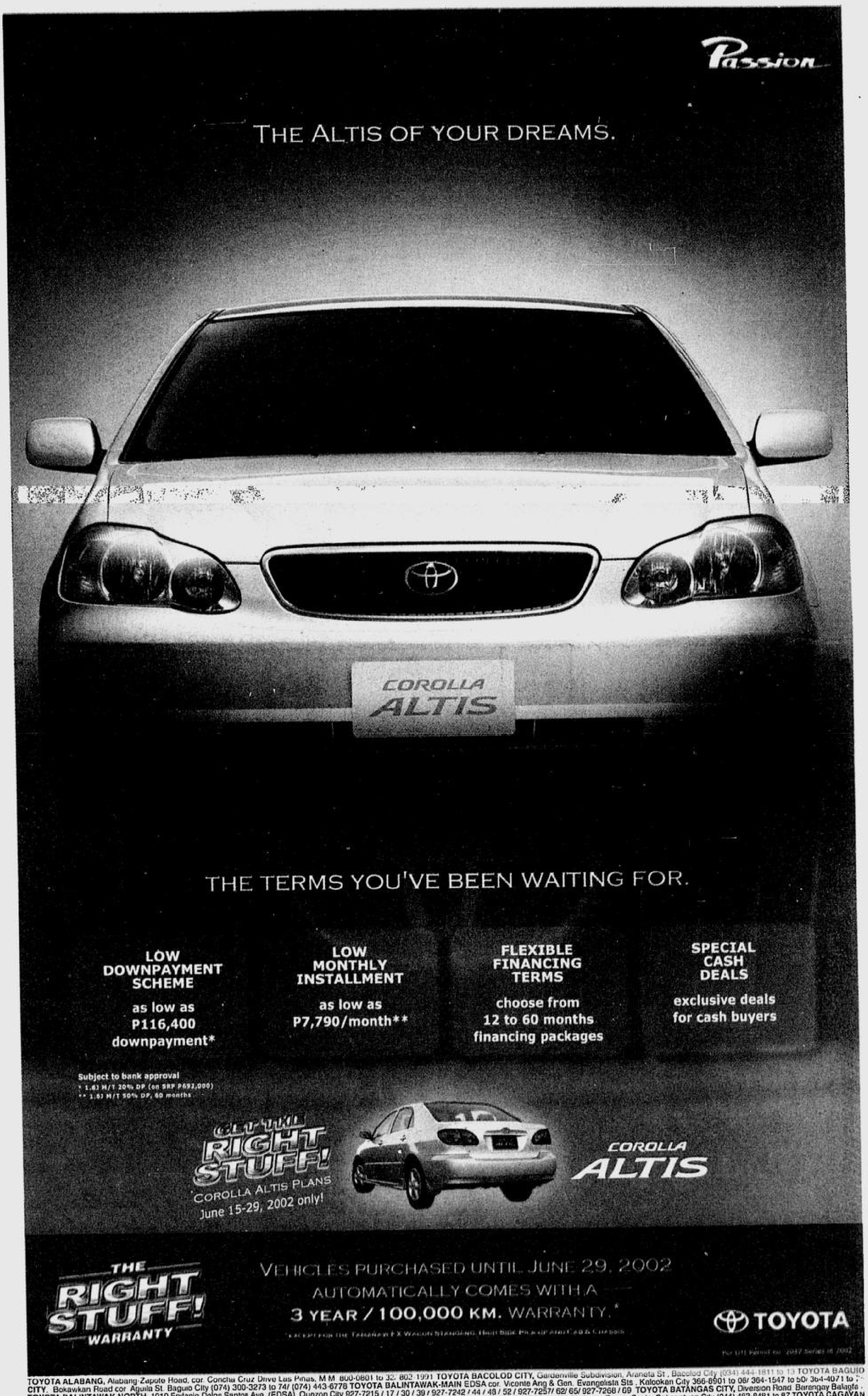
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MARKET ACCESS FOR TUNA EXPORTS

RP gets British gov't support

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES has obtained the support of the British government in the country's bid to gain wider access for its canned tuna exports to Europe similar to the preferential treatment accorded by the European Union to canned tuna exports from African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said he had received word from the House of Commons that the United Kingdom would back the Philippine position for preferred access of its canned tuna exports to Europe when the EU deliberates on the issue.

Roxas said that while the UK's support would bolster the Philippine position, the issue was still far from being settled. "The UK is just one vote in the EU which, like Asean, requires unanimous approval for trade policies," Roxas said.

Spain and France are seen as the main roadblock to greater access for the Philippines' and Thailand's canned tuna exports to Europe. Spain is apparently protecting its fishing industry while France has been adamant about granting preferential treatment to its

RP/ B6

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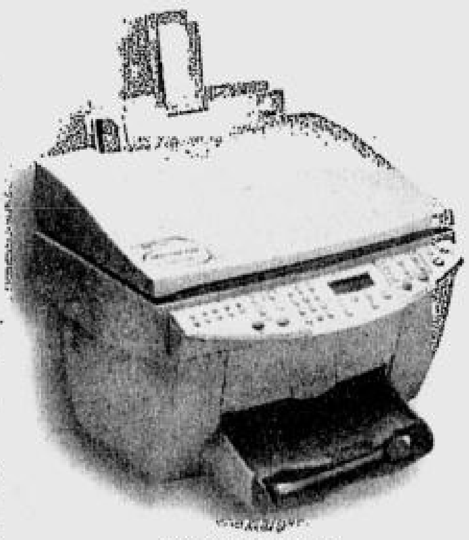

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Yep, it's Yap

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

ALL the noise and the town-hall meetings at the Manila Polo Club are directed at preventing the Eduardo Yap group from being reelected to the board again, this we have confirmed from the "oversight committee" network that is orchestrating the protest actions.

Though no longer president, Yap is currently a "special adviser" to the board and is considered the Cardinal Richelieu of MPC president Policarpo Ascalon.

Both sit in the Forbes Park Association, with Yap as president.

In addition to Yap and Ascalon, the "good governance and moral recovery" ticket of ex-Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo and ex-Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia aims to prevent Washington Lou, another board member allied with Yap, from being reelected.

(By coincidence, another Yap happens to be the power behind the throne in the Baguio Country Club.

Like the Polo Club, the Baguio Country Club has been throwing legal objections to an independent audit of the club's finances and has even gone to the extent of suspending Chita Bito, the widow of longtime BCC lawyer Jesus Bito, and her daughter, society photographer Ninfa Bito, for daring to question the club's policies. But we are digressing.)

The Romulo and Cuisia team apparently thinks that it can also win director Reynaldo Concepcion, who is aspiring for the presidency, over to their side and thus ensure an undisputed hold on the next board.

Meanwhile, incumbent directors Carlos Rufino and Harry Tan, younger brother of taipan Lucio Tan, have both signified their intentions not to seek reelection, given the kind of atmosphere now prevailing in the club.

Even the club manager, Philippe Bartholomi, is taking a leave by the month's end and is flying to his native Belgium to escape the escalating heat.

TonyBoy's impediment

THE AIDES of PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco have a new joke concerning their famous boss.

Pressed to raise funds to fend off the Gokongwei takeover of the phone company, TonyBoy supposedly gathered courage and finally went to see his mother to ask if he could use the famed Cojuangco fortune for the management buy-out plan that TonyBoy is supposedly working on to thwart Gokongwei.

To make a long story short, Doña Meldy supposedly gave her favorite son one cryptic reply: "On one condition."

We know the punch line, but we would rather leave it to the movie columnists to complete the story.

No drinking, only merry-making

ESTRADA lawyer Rene A.V. Saguisag said his client Jinggoy Estrada never touched alcohol at the Makati Medical Center, as was insinuated in this column on June 17.

"I asked him about your report that he caroused with Rudy Fernandez & Co. on June 11," Saguisag wrote. "He denied it flat out."

"What happened was that after wrapping up a film, Rudy & Co. decided to visit him (visiting the sick is a virtue) just about when the hospital restaurant was about to close at 10 p.m. The small group asked for permission to stay on for a while, which was granted."

"Escorted by armed bodyguards, Jinggoy went down where they chatted and had some snacks but broke up before midnight," Saguisag said. "Absolutely no one drank that night, to the wee hours. It was over shortly. Or else, the hospital would have protested."

According to the grapevine, the bill for that late-night snack amounted to P28,000.

Saguisag also hotly denied rumors coming from the "evil" society that Jinggoy had to be rushed to Makati Med suffering from life-threatening complications due to a secret liposuction operation at the Veterans hospital.

"The Estradas have been the constant victims of your paper in printing various derogatory items without verification or corroboration and bereft of any effort to get their side of the story," Saguisag harrumphed.

Heard through the grapevine

THE MEMBERS chant Sanskrit prayers while bowing and scrapping before an empty chair. The faithful are also encouraged to make a pilgrimage to their "benevolent teacher's" rural paradise.

Ecleo's PBMA? Nope. Forbes-Dasma Siddha Yoga group. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

RP envoy says regional blocs enhance Asia's competitiveness

REGIONAL groupings will enhance East Asian competitiveness, Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco told members of Columbia University's graduate school of business recently.

Yuchengco, the country's permanent representative to the United Nations and an alumnus of Columbia University, spoke on "Asian Business Competitiveness as part of the prestigious Silfen Leadership Lecture series.

He said that "both political and economic reasons compel East Asians to get together in regional blocks."

"One urgent reason is that they're all wary of being marginalized as Europe and North America consolidate powerful trading and negotiating blocs," he said.

Yuchengco, however, added that it would take years before these boxes would be completely formed. Nevertheless, he said that increasing inter-regional trade was already very substantial. Citing figures to support his views, the ambassador pointed to the agreement forged by 10 Asean states last year to negotiate free trade with China within five to 10 years. The agreement creates a free trade area that will make up the world's largest internal market of more than 17 million people, a combined GDP of more than $2 trillion.

Yuchengco added that "Asia's traditional ways of doing business are adapting to the pressures of global competition."

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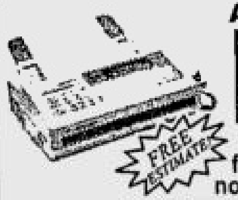

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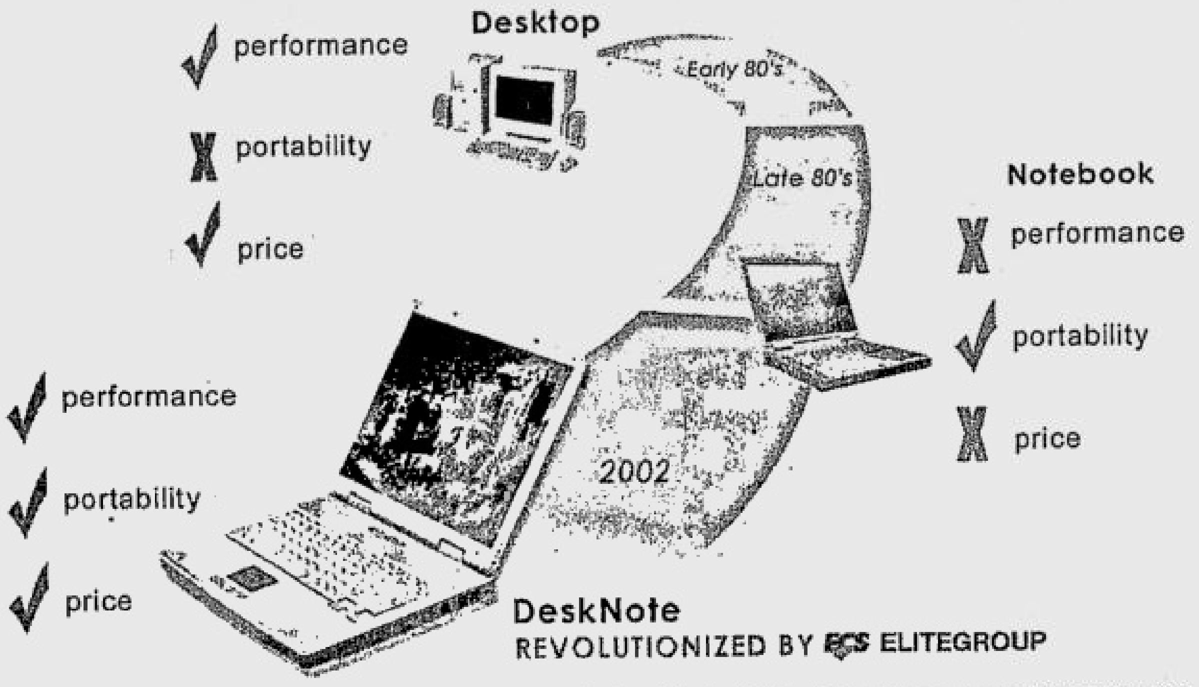

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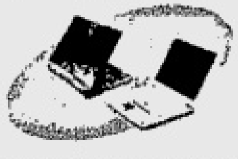

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Lafarge to sink in ₱3.7B if dumping is checked

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LAFARGE (France) SA, the world's largest cement manufacturer, is planning to sink about P3.7 billion in additional investments in the Philippines over the next five years if the Macapagal administration moves to curb the dumping of cement imports into the country.

Lafarge had already plunked in a total of P22 billion—its second biggest overseas investment next only to the United States—since it acquired its first Philippine cement company in 1998. These investments excluded those made by Blue Circle Plc., which Lafarge acquired and integrated into its operations last year.

In an interview, Lafarge Cement Services Philippines Inc. president Peter Hoddinott told the INQUIRER that Lafarge and other cement makers in the Philippines needed government help in slowing down imports to recover market share lost to imports and allow companies to implement cost-cutting measures to boost their viability.

Hoddinott said with improving volumes, cement companies could drive down production costs and pare down their debts, which had hobbled their operations since the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis.

Hoddinott said the provisional duty on imported cement of P20.60 a bag, or 25 percent, implemented in December had been effective in reining in the influx of cement imports, whose share dwindled to 4 percent from a peak of 32 percent in July last year.

"Cement prices did not shoot up as feared by some sectors, and prices in some regions have substantially gone down since the provisional duty imposed," said Hoddinott.

The provisional duty, however, is expected to lapse on Friday, and Lafarge and other cement manufacturers have very few options left to maintain the same rate of protection for the next five years.

The Tariff Commission rejected the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp.'s plea for punitive duties and quota restrictions on cement imports under the Safeguard Measures Act because it found no direct link between the industry's sinking fortunes and surging imports. The provisional duty was only allowed to continue after Philcemcor obtained a court order restraining the government from lifting the temporary relief measure before its due date.

"Our only request is for short-term, stop-gap measure that would create an environment where there is management confidence, supported by sufficient volume, to justify investments in cost improvement measures," Hoddinott said.

Lafarge and other cement manufacturers are asking the government to implement "structural" power rates for key local industries, such as cement.

They are also seeking duty-free perks for fuel imports, such as coal and petroleum coke; higher investments in port facilities; consistent labor policies; cheaper debt instruments for capital intensive industries; tax changes on plant utilization; and, faster processing investments.

Gov't agencies set to cut travel, training expenses

GOVERNMENT agencies are set to cut starting this week travel and training expenses to help keep the budget deficit below P130 billion by year's end, according to Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin.

In a news briefing, Boncodin said the Department of Budget and Management and the National Economic and Development Authority would also start a review of state-funded projects to determine whether some could be deferred or scrapped altogether.

"We were instructed by the President during the Cabinet meeting last Thursday to review and institute measures on the spending and revenue side in order to put back the fiscal targets on track," Boncodin told reporters.

She said the budget department would release this week a circular asking all state agencies to exercise discretion when spending on travel and training.

"We will also notify all agencies not to expect any additional releases from the DBM," Boncodin said.

She said agencies whose prime mandate was to conduct training, like the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, or those that had huge travel budgets, like the Department of Tourism, had been instructed to exercise discretion and cut spending on other items.

Boncodin said slow-moving or much-delayed projects that would be identified as "postponables" or "non-essential" to the economy could be canceled.

"In the sectoral efficiency review, we would identify priority projects of each agency and discard those that are not very important. But we would definitely retain projects or items that are important to support economic growth," she said.

Boncodin admitted that the country's economic team was preparing for the worst, expressing concern that the government's budget deficit could go beyond estimates. *Clarissa S. Batino*

High court junks petition vs air industry reforms

THE SUPREME Court has junked petitions to declare unconstitutional an executive order reforming the local civil aviation and an air service agreement that the country signed with Singapore last year.

In a resolution, the high court dismissed a petition by nongovernment organization Save Our Skies Movement (SOS) to render "unconstitutional" Executive Order No. 32 issued by President Macapagal-Arroyo on Aug. 20, 2001.

EO 32 amended EO 219, or the domestic and international civil aviation liberalization policy issued by former President Fidel Ramos in 1995.

Ramos called for increased air access into the country to improve tourism, trade and the flow of foreign investments.

He also formed an air panel to facilitate negotiation with other countries for air rights agreements.

Under EO 219, the Philippine air panel was headed by the Department of Foreign Affairs with the Civil Aeronautics Board and the designated Philippine air carriers as members.

Ms Macapagal's EO 32, however, changed the composition of the air panel.

The transportation secretary now sits as chair of the negotiating body. The foreign secretary has been relegated to the position of vice chair.

The CAB is still a member, but the trade and tourism departments have been added to the roster.

The change aims to emphasize the role of the actual users of air services.

The Supreme Court also dismissed SOS' petition to declare illegal the Philippines-Singapore air service agreement.

The high court said the group failed to comply with the requirements for substantiating claims, including proper verification of the petition.

SOS' attached verification was found defective by the high court. The group also lacked certification against forum shopping. *Abigail L. Ho*

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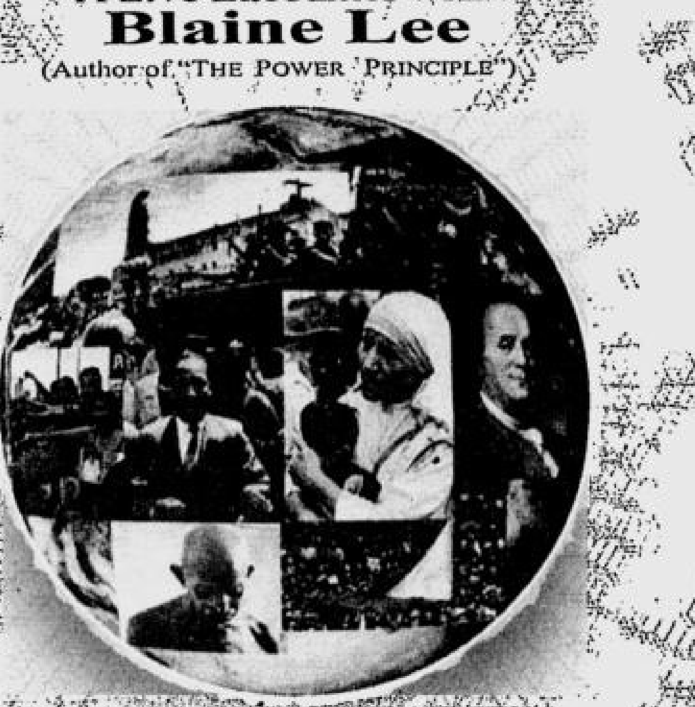

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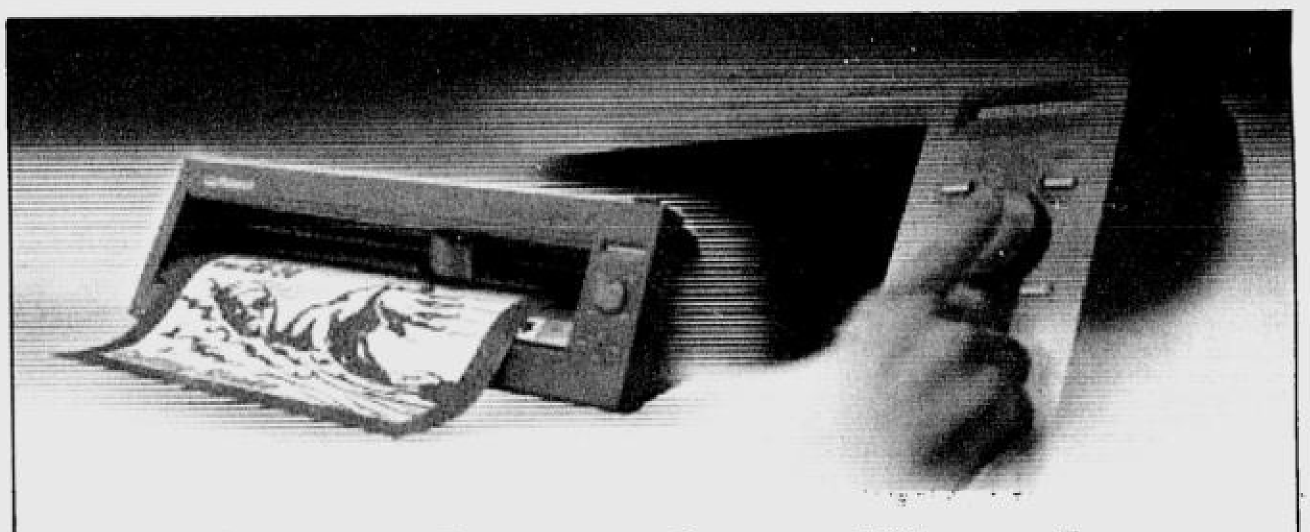

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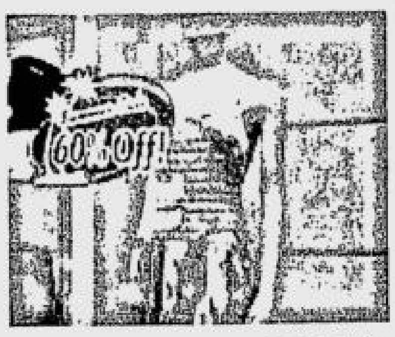

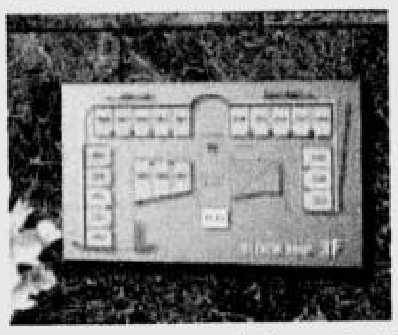

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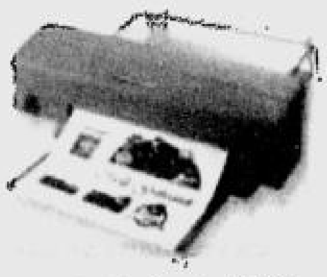

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YUCHENGCO OFFENSIVE

PSE hit by revamp

By Doris C. Dumlao

A TOP management revamp has hit the Philippine Stock Exchange following a court ruling last week favoring the majority of incumbent directors led by chair Vivian Yuchengco.

PSE insiders told the INQUIRER that several top bourse officials, including senior vice president and chief operating officer Jose Cervantes and accounting head Corazon Padua, were being forced to resign. Others had already quit their posts, they said.

Other well-placed sources confirmed that PSE president Ernest Leung informed Cervantes last week that the board wanted to transfer him to the legal department. Leung, however, was said to have disapproved of the transfer.

Cervantes has reportedly been kept out of the loop in most of the PSE's affairs. He was not invited during the last board meeting on Wednesday, according to sources.

"Management is citing reorganizational matters. It's not worthy of a story," a PSE official said on condition of anonymity.

At least three other top PSE officials, meanwhile, have already given up their posts. They are chief counsel Dennis Eala, listing department head Tina Panganiban and administration head Digna de los Reyes.

Sources said their voluntary resignation was due to "differences" with the current PSE leadership.

Persons familiar with the matter said while Cervantes was being asked to "transfer" to the legal department following Eala's resignation, the PSE had already decided to get a new counse—Zaber Protacio of the Ongkiko law firm.

Cervantes' transfer not only amounts to a demotion but also a redundancy, according to sources.

The stock exchange has had a long history of firing top officials.

Last year, the PSE board under chair Felipe Yap dismissed Leung's predecessor Ramon Garcia over a heated word war between Garcia and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. chief executive Manuel Pangilinan, who was then sitting on the PSE board as a non-broker director.

Eala and Panganiban were said to have resigned voluntarily due to disagreements over the handling of certain matters, like a board decision not to contest an order from the Securities and Exchange Commission to exempt Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc. from the listing rules of the PSE.

The Pasig Regional Trial Court dismissed last week a petition seeking to nullify the election of eight non-broker directors who were decisive in the election of Yuchengco as chair.

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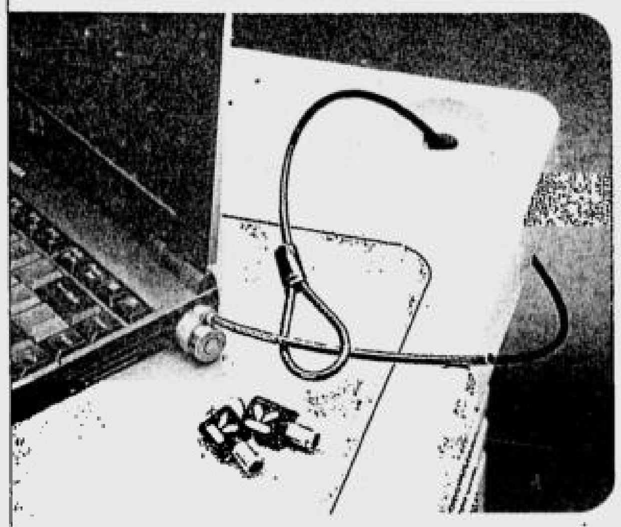

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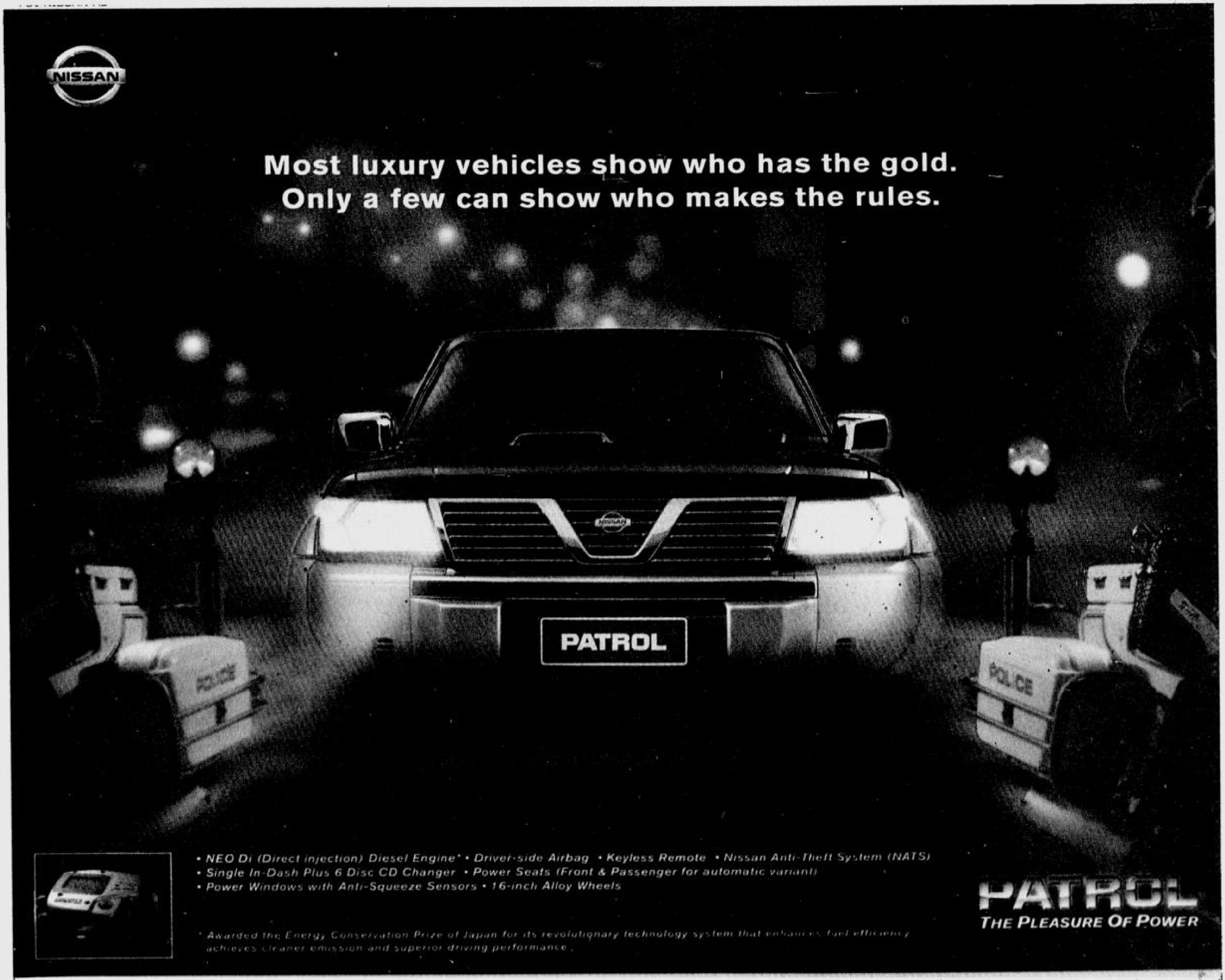
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Orchard Golf	250,000/340,000*	220,000
Phil. Columbian	80,000	60,000
Puerto Azul "A"/"B"*	120,000/150,000*	-
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	200,000	-
Riviera Golf "A"/"C"*	190,000/450,000*	-
Riviera Golf "B"	350,000	-
Royale Tagaytay A/D	90,000/140,000	-
Sherwoods	105,000/Pls. Call*	-
Sta. Elena Golf Club	1,600,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht Club "Corp"	330,000	-
Subic Golf	160,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	430,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	-	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	770,000
Valley Golf & CC	-	250,000
Valle Verde (Indv.)	-	150,000
Wack Wack Golf	7,200,000	-

FREE PLAYING RIGHTS AVAILABLE Looking For Forest Hills Inactive Share
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Mon. - Fri. 9:00 am - 6:00 pm Sat. 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Unit 1402 Medical Plaza Ortigas, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

FRANCISCO V. DEL ROSARIO HOLDINGS, INC.
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BUY/SELL COUNTRY CLUB SHARES
AS OF JUNE 21, 2002

		ASKED PRICE	BID PRICE
1	BUENAVISTA NATURE PARK & COUNTRY CLUB	Please call	
2	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	-	720,000.00
3	CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB		70,000.00
4	CALIRAYA SPRING	Please call	-
5	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	-	550,000.00
6	CLUB FILIPINO	-	190,000.00
7	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	500,000.00	-
8	EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB	200,000.00	
9	FONTANA "D"	70,000.00	-
10	FOREST HILLS "C"	-	250,000.00
11	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	-	250,300.00
12	MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind.)		11,000,000.00
13	MANILA POLO CLUB	-	2,700,000.00
14	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	630,000.00	-
15	METRO CLUB "A"	100,000.00	
16	MIMOSA (Ind.)	125,000.00	-
17	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	35,000.00	-
18	MT. MALARAYAT "B"	-	400,000.00
19	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	220,000.00	-
20	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	275,000.00	Please call
21	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	-	250,000.00
22	PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	80,000.00	
23	PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "A"	100,000.00	
24	PUNTA FUEGO	650,000.00	
25	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000.00*	
26	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "A"	200,000.00	
27	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "B"	250,000.00	
28	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "C"	350,000.00	
29	ROCKWELL	550,000.00	
30	SHERWOOD HILLS "A"	100,000.00	
31	SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	190,000.00	
32	SPA & LODGE	870,000.00	
33	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"		1,600,000.00
34	SPLENDIDO	1,000,000.00	Please call
35	SUBIC YACHT CLUB (IND.)	200,000.00	-
36	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB	900,000.00	-
37	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	730,000.00
38	THE COUNTRY CLUB	2,500,000.00	Please call
39	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	165,000.00	-
40	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	-	250,000.00
41	WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	7,000,000.00	-
42	OTHERS	Please call	

PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE

ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB	P 30,000.00	TAGAYTAY GOLF CLUB	40,000.00
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB	free rental	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	40,000.00
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	20,000.00	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	15,000.00
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB	20,000.00	WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	80,000.00
MANILA SOUTHWOODS	30,000.00	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB	20,000.00
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	80,000.00	OTHERS	Please call

AMELIA B. MAGAT
Asst. Treas. / Comptroller
or call
ROMEO M. RIBAÑO / SHIONEL PIGA / REYNALDO CUEVAS
Ground Floor, Tuscan Building, 114 Herrera Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tels. 818-6991 • 818-6936 • 818-6948 Fax 818-5453
E-mail address: fvrh@info.com.ph

GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of June 24, 2002

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,600,000	1,650,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	Please Call	2,000,000
Baguio Country Club	700,000	740,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	100,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	100,000	110,000
Camp John Hay	250,000	300,000
Canlubang	500,000	600,000
Canyonwoods	Please Call	200,000
Capitol Hills	-	120,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	180,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	200,000
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	230,000	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	250,000	260,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	250,000	280,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	270,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	15,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	Please Call	14,000,000
Manila Polo	Please Call	2,850,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	600,000	650,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	Please Call
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	120,000
Montemar (Individual)	30,000	40,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	-
Mt. Malarayat (Corporate)	-	550,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	200,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	Please Call
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	350,000	450,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	100,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,625,000	1,850,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	2,100,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	300,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	400,000	450,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	740,000	850,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	-	180,000
Valley Golf	270,000	350,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,800,000	Please Call

PLAYING RIGHTS (Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

For more information, please call:
ALABANG 850-8223 • Fax 772-1817
MAKATI 840-1761 • Fax 894-3021 / 750-7894
or e-mail at: ggashare@mozcom.com
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Is apple rotten to the core?

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

BY THE grace of God, I was able to avert an international war. The CIA received news that there was a suspicious looking building in the center of Baghdad, which was producing fission chips, either Uranium 235 or Plutonium—both can be used to produce nuclear weapons. Fortunately, I called in Sherlock Holmes of British Intelligence, and he discovered that it was an English Pub selling fish 'n chips. With President Bush looking for any opportunity to attack Iraq, it makes you wonder Hussein and who isn't.

The Iraqi government is very upset over the importation of scantily dressed, mini skirted, blonde, blue eyed, Barbie dolls. These are so different to the way Iraqi women dress that Saddam ordered all the dolls to be burned in a giant barbiecue. Saddam shame he has no sense of humor. He sure knows how to doll out punishment.

This reminds me of a story about Kuwait. When General Schwarzkopf, or was it Schwarzenegger, went to Kuwait, he noticed that the women walked 10 paces behind their husbands. He told the Sheik that in America, women were equal and walked alongside their husbands. The Sheik promised that if Kuwait were liberated, he would change the law. Years later, the general returned and found that the women now walked 10 paces in front of their husbands. He was delighted but asked why this was so, "Well," replied the Sheik, "there are still thousands of land mines around."

The Sheik has just made a bid for Magnolia. If successful, he will become the first milk Sheik.

I do not know why it took a jury several days to find Enron guilty of shredding vital documents. The stinger is that the manufacturers of shredded wheat feel they may be next. Somebody has been breaking into supermarkets and slashing bags of Quaker Oats, boxes of shredded wheat and packets of Corn Flakes. The police are looking for a cereal killer.

I understand that Erap wants to go to the US because of a severe attack of balacuba. As I do not understand Filipino, I imagine this must be a serious heart or kidney condition, in which case, they should either let him go, or give him Head and Shoulders.

This has been a terrible week for Wall Street and the rest of the world. On Friday of the previous week, it was announced that production had fallen by 0.9 percent compared to a 1.2-percent rise in the previous month. The market opened 150 points lower. Then the University of Michigan published figures showing that business confidence had declined from 96.9 to 90.3. This was totally unexpected and the Dow gapped down another 100 points to produce an intra day fall of 253 points. True, it recovered most of the loss by the end of the trading session but it indicates how panicky investors are. Since then, the Dow and the Nasdaq have been fluctuating wildly day-to-day, and the Nasdaq momentarily fell below the November low. Even now, it is only slightly above it.

The global meltdown continues, and results from Apple missing its forecast by 28 percent, sent the entire tech sector plummeting. Intel is writing off $100 million and announced that its inventory is at a new high, so we can expect some more price-cutting. Nokia has just downgraded its profits forecast for the second quarter, which puts further pressure on the tech sector. Demand for chips has been below expectations because there are few new software programs, largely due to piracy.

Sixty-six percent of Overseas Fund Managers voted the Philippines as the country they would least like to invest in. They cited the budget deficit overspending, the killing of two hostages, the capture of four Indonesian boatmen, the antics of the Senate, and, of course, the level of corruption. None of this does the country any good and we expect to be downgraded again.

If my subscribers have been following my advice, they should be completely out of the market as I am. In fact, original subscribers should have been out since mid February, when the Phisix was almost 1,500. Now it is about 280 points lower. More recent entrants were told to get out three weeks ago, when the Phisix was 100 points higher.

It is more important to be out of a falling market than to be in a rising market. If you lose 50 percent of your capital through not using stop losses, you have to wait for a 100-percent recovery simply to break even. Knowing when to SELL is most important and I have been consistently bearish. In four months, all I sent out was a BUY of FLI at P1.92, which subsequently rose to P3.15. And I warned that TEL, without a bid, would fall below P400, its last support level. Considering the lack of BUY recommendations I was pleasantly surprised that only one subscriber has ever dropped out. Clearly, they recognize that my bearish forecasts have been right. When the charts show signs of bottoming out, I will send out BUY signals, not only is the evening but also throughout the day, so they can get in quickly. I will telephone my clients, as they may not be checking their emails.

Latest joke. Calpers were asked to reconsider selling their investments in the Philippines. After studying the matter further, they decided to sell short

(Your comments and suggestions are always welcome so feel free to contact mrbearbull@hotmail.com.)

REBOUND AWAITED

Market seen to stay sluggish

By Doris C. Dumlao

MARKET PLAY

AFTER hitting oversold levels comparable to the free fall that followed the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States, the local stock market is expected to trade with mixed sentiment this week. Investors are, however, hoping that the much-awaited technical bounce will finally happen during the week.

PCI Capital Corp. analyst Mike Ordinanza said the local bourse still lacked direction and that there was not much incentive to accumulate stocks.

"There's no new development so the market will remain listless," Ordinanza said.

The only positive news on the economy is that the government is getting a lot of funds from the issuance of retail Treasury bonds, Ordinanza said. With the fresh funds from the RTBs, he said he was no longer concerned about the government's budget deficit.

He estimated that the government could raise as much as P20 billion from the RTB offering.

Investment guide Philstocks.net, for its part, said the market would likely post some gains this week but this would be due to a technical bounce rather than a reaction to any good news.

Contrary to expectations that the market would be buoyed by some sporadic bargain hunting, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost another 51.60 points or 4 percent last week to close at 1,214.15 Friday on a string of negative news such as the government's budget deficit.

"The last time the main index was this oversold was in October of last year when the Phisix fell below 1,000. However, a technical rebound is not going to go far without positive leads," Philstocks.net said.

At the moment, world events are dictating the market's pace and activities here. Until we start seeing some better earnings news, we believe the market's going to remain in this bottoming phase. Investors will continue to adopt a wait-and-see stance until all the distractions are eradicated," it said.

The bleak market sentiment last week was aggravated by an international survey that showed that the Philippines was among the least loved Asian markets.

"It all boils down to tackling the terrorism concerns and settling the local political situation. And the way things are going, it will take time and patience before the crisis of confidence will be over," Philstocks.net said.

The market is still awaiting news on the Gokongwei takeover bid for Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. after Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone announced on Friday its support for the PLDT management led by president Manuel Pangilinan.

Gov't sets cap on companies' allowable tax deductions

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue will put a cap on the tax deductions for representation and advertising claimed by corporate taxpayers.

The BIR, through an order to be issued this week, will limit the allowable tax deductions to half of one percent of net sales for manufacturing companies and to one percent of net income for service-oriented firms, a source said.

There is at present no limit on the tax deductions for representation and advertising that a corporate taxpayer can claim, he said.

The move is one of four revenue regulations that the BIR is expected to release this week. The others include measures that will address the P70-billion leakage on the collection of value added tax, clarify the regulation on the taxation of airlines and tighten the tax policy on 10-seater vehicles.

The bureau, which collects about 80 percent of the government's revenues, should deliver P447.6 billion to finance the state's budget this year. In the first four months, however, the BIR's weak revenue collection pushed the government's budget deficit to almost P83 billion, or already 64 percent of the P130-billion target for the whole year.

The four revenue regulations, said a source, should improve the BIR's collection this year by about P10 billion.

The cap on the corporate taxpayers' allowable deductions for representation and advertising should help the BIR reduce, if not totally wipe out, the estimated P60-billion tax leakage in the corporate sector.

The plan early this year was to impose a 50-percent ceiling on deductions for representation, advertising, travel and training to raise additional P2.3 billion in annual revenues. But the BIR suspended the plan due to the strong opposition from various business groups. The new regulation on tax deductions, said another source, was supported by most business organizations.

Currently, businesses are allowed to deduct as cost of operation all representation, advertising, promotions, and even transportation and travel expenses.

The Comprehensive Tax Reform Law empowers the finance secretary who oversees the BIR to put a cap on some of the deductions allowed by the law.

In the new regulation on the 10-percent VAT, the BIR will require companies, especially those from the manufacturing sector, to submit a detailed summary report of their purchases and sales, which comprise their input and output VAT.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, June 21, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Banks & Financial Services					
Banks					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19.75	19.75	19.5	19.75	548,500
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50.5	50.5	50	50.5	1,247,600
China Banking Corp.	630	630	630	630	8,200
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35.5	35.5	35	35.5	58,300
First E-Bank Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	87,000
Global Business Bank Inc.	74.5	74.5	70	70	200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	36	36.5	35	35	274,800
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	6,600
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	900
Security Bank Corp.	13.75	14	13.75	14	29,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	22	22	22	22	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1105	1115	1100	1115	41,620
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	1,900
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.74	0.8	0.74	0.77	9,400,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	610	630	610	610	7,970
Piltel	0.37	0.39	0.37	0.38	980,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	387.5	397.5	387.5	397.5	95,810
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.015	30,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21.75	22	21.75	22	27,100
Manila Electric Co. B	33	34.5	33	34.5	1,516,000
Petron Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.7	3,336,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	163,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	65,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.4	2.36	2.36	100,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.1	34,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	6,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	162,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	114,400
RFM Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	40,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48	47.5	48	63,600
San Miguel Corp. B	56.5	56.5	55	55.5	116,300
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5	5.2	5	5.2	1,360,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	53,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.5	91,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.45	6,140,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	920,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	5	5	5	5	1,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	155,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	22	22.25	22	22.25	46,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	100,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	3,030,000
Medco Holdings	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	50,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.75	6,310,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.41	0.49	0.4	0.49	60,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	6,410,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.65	0.65	590,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
SPI Technologies Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	22,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	150,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25.5	25.5	25	25	202,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	750	750	750	750	130
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	7,600,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	110,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	350,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.24	490,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.46	2.46	2.38	2.42	6,188,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
City & Land Developers	2	2	2	2	5,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	190,000
Sm Prime Holdings Inc.	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	2,944,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.035	0.035	0.034	0.034	1,500,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	1,010,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	5,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
Oil					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	2,000,000
South China Resources Inc	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000

CURRENCIES

June 21, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.034875	1.000000	50.2050
Japan	Yen	0.008393	0.008110	0.4072
United Kingdom	Pound	1.552002	1.499700	75.2924
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.132678	0.128207	6.4366
Switzerland	Franc	0.680079	0.657160	32.9927
Canada	Dollar	0.677496	0.654664	32.8674
Singapore	Dollar	0.582045	0.562430	28.2368
Australia	Dollar	0.591019	0.571102	28.6722
Bahrain	Dinar	2.745173	2.652661	133.1768
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.275944	0.266645	13.3869
Brunei	Dollar	0.580412	0.560852	28.1576
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000121	0.000117	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024623	0.023793	1.1945
UAE	Dirham	0.281775	0.272279	13.6698
Korea	Won	0.000856	0.000827	0.0415
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.966300	48.5131
Argentina	Peso	0.289072	0.279330	14.0238
Brazil	Real	0.375499	0.376285	18.8914
Denmark	Kroner	0.134574	0.130039	6.5286
India	Rupee	0.021189	0.020475	1.0279
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.272372	0.263193	13.2136
Mexico	New Peso	0.104427	0.100908	5.0661
New Zealand	Dollar	0.507915	0.490798	24.6405
Norway	Kroner	0.135544	0.130976	6.5757
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017276	0.016694	0.8381
South Africa	Rand	0.099989	0.096619	4.8508
Sweden	Kroner	0.110448	0.106726	5.3582
Syria	Pound	0.020133	0.019455	0.9767
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030663	0.029630	1.4876
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000796	0.000769	0.0386

RP gets . . .

From page B2

former colonies. ACP countries are former European territories.

The special trade pact would allow the 77 ACP countries to export tuna to the 15-member EU under a quota system and zero tariffs. The EU obtained a waiver from the World Trade Organization in last year's Doha meeting for its program to give preferential access to ACP products in Europe on condition that it entered into consultations with the Philippines and Thailand, which have demanded the same perks for their canned tuna exports to Europe.

The negotiations, which began in November last year, proved futile as they lapsed in April without any settlement between the parties. The Philippines and Thailand have threatened to seek intervention from the WTO to settle the dispute.

The Philippines and Thailand are batting to lower the duties on their canned tuna exports from the present rate of 24 percent to between zero and 5 percent. The Philippines exports roughly five million cases of canned tuna every year, or 60 percent of its total production capacity.

Europe is the Philippines' third biggest export market for tuna with a 15-percent market share, behind the United States (38 percent) and Singapore (16 percent). The Tuna Canners Association of the Philippines is more interested in Europe than the US because demand in the former has been growing 7 percent annually while the latter has been stagnant for the last 15 years.

The Philippines is waging a similar battle for its canned tuna exports to the US, which will grant duty-free access to canned tuna exports from Andean countries through amendments to the 1991 Andean Trade Preference Act.

Philippine canned tuna exports have been on the decline since hitting a peak of $208 million in 1998 as the country's major markets impose trade barriers to favor other tuna-exporting countries.

Trouble in foreign retirees' paradise—Part 2

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

SINCE my column of June 3, I have received materials about the Philippine Retirement Authority Members Association Foundation Inc. (Prama) showing the growing furor that could ruin the government program of making this country a foreign retirees' haven.

In 1985, the government launched a program to attract foreigners to retire here. The program was, and is, run by the Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA). In 1990, the PRA Members Association Inc. was formed. In 1994, the association metamorphosed into PRA Members Association Foundation Inc. (Prama).

At the start, PRA made membership with Prama mandatory at annual dues of P2,000. To help Prama take off, PRA agreed to collect the dues and remit the collections under a memorandum of agreement.

Prama's bigger source of income was the so-called marketing fees from accredited banks where retirees' funds are deposited. To qualify under the PRA program, a retiree at least 50 years old must deposit with a bank $50,000 or the equivalent in other acceptable currencies. Under a memorandum of agreement with each bank, Prama received one-half of one percent of the daily outstanding deposits. These marketing fees are large enough to fight over. In 1999, Prama received over P17 million.

Under separate MOAs, PRA was also getting one-half percent of the daily outstanding deposits from the banks. This was PRA's main source of operating funds since it did not get any appropriations from Congress.

Early last year, retirees were getting restive for several major reasons. First, no general meeting has ever been called since 1995. Second, the bylaws were amended to limit voting members to those invited to pay P5,000 in annual dues; only five were so anointed, and these Magnificent Five comprise the board whose term has been extended till 2003 (the SEC has declared all these illegal). Third, Prama refuses to furnish the members with copies of the audited financial statements. In fact, the auditors had this to say about the 1999 financial reports: The accompanying December 1999 financial statements of Prama were prepared from the company's books without audit. Accordingly, we are not in a position to and do not express an opinion on the said financial statements.

Also, the close relationship between PRA and Prama was getting unstuck. Government lawyers told PRA that mandatory membership was a human rights violation. Mandatory membership had to be abolished. Then, PRA wanted to impose a 5-percent service charge on all collections. Prama considers the amount exorbitant. The MOA was canceled. Then, the Prama sued PRA for failure to remit collections. This case is still on trial.

Then the banks canceled Prama's MOAs. This cut Prama's major supply of funds. Soon after, the banks agreed to increase the fees to PRA to a full one percent.

At the center of this conflict is Prama's president and chief executive officer, Ramon M. Collado, Esq., a retiree from Belize (formerly British Honduras). Members claim that Collado and the four other board members enjoy fabulous allowances. The good esquire himself tools around Metro Manila in a Mercedes Benz protected by a bodyguard.

Collado claims the funds are intact. As of September last year, P5 million was placed in a bond/placement (a financial document I have never heard of) for the healthcare service for members above 60 years of age. Another P650,000 is invested in memorial plans to be given out to unfortunate Prama members who may not be able to afford funeral and burial services in the future. The rest of the funds are kept in a trust fund for future services and project/benefits for all members. No member has seen the documents.

Prama (Collado really) has filed a suit. A friendly judge has ordered PRA to reinstate the MOA and pay the fees that it would have received from the banks. This amount has been computed at a whopping P29 million. The board has refused to follow and the friendly judge has declared the board in contempt and has ordered the arrest of the members, which include such government stalwarts as Manuel A. Roxas II, Richard Gordon, Rafael B. Buenaventura, Andrea Domingo, Erlinda P, Lozada and, particularly, PAR manager Vernette Umali-Paco. The case is going to be appealed.

For a man who enjoys the hospitality of this country, Collado has some terrible things to say about Filipinos. In a letter to a complaining retiree, Collado explains why he does not give financial figures just to anybody, thus: Due to the special characteristics that this country has and the pervading corrupt and opportunistic attitude of people and officials of the government, we are very careful in disclosing the information you requested.

This esquire should be declared an undesirable alien and should be shipped back to Belize—leaving the precious Mercedes Benz behind, of course.

PAL reopens Manila-Guam service

PHILIPPINE Airlines renews a historical bond while eyeing new markets when it reopens a regular service between Manila and Guam today.

PAL's return to the US Pacific territory after nine years fulfills a longstanding commitment to its core ethnic Filipino market in Guam and puts the flag carrier to a position to tap into the flourishing tourist and labor traffic to the island.

The service will operate three times a week, with departures from Manila every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 p.m. Arrival at Guam's Antonio B. Won Pat International Airport is at 4:10 a.m. the following day.

The return flight departs Guam every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 6:40 a.m., arriving in Manila at 8:50 a.m.

PAL will field new-generation Airbus A320-200 aircraft, which seats 12 in Mabuhay (business) class and 138 in economy, for the four-hour-and-ten-minute journey.

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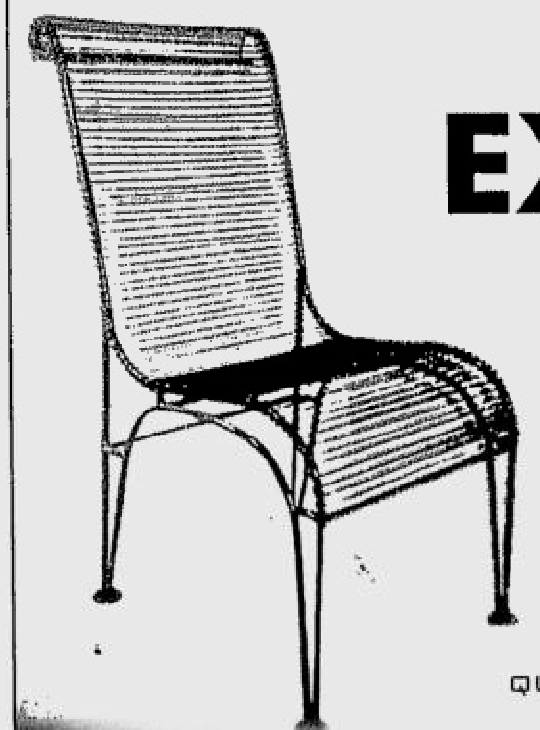

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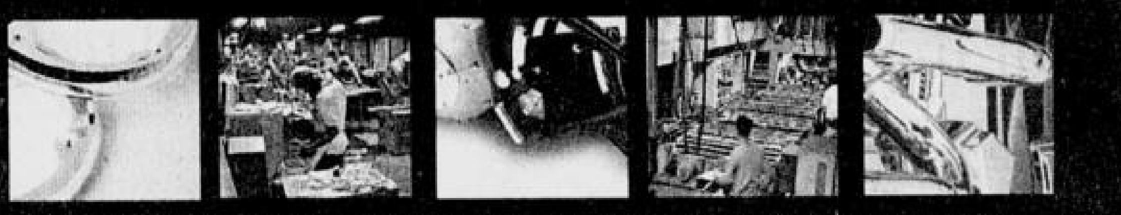

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Honda's new CRV may lose excise tax exemption

By C. S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT may have to withdraw the excise tax exemption accorded to the new Honda CRV after a reexamination of the vehicle by a Department of Finance team showed it could not seat 10 people as claimed by Honda Cars Philippines Inc.

HCPI claimed the sports utility vehicle, launched in April, could seat 10 people and thus it was entitled to the excise tax exemption given to 10-seater Asian utility vehicles. The tax exemption has been in effect since 1997 and was further relaxed in 1999.

A team from the DOF and the Bureau of Internal Revenue re-measured the new CRV last Thursday. A source said the vehicle failed to pass the 10-seat requirement of the BIR.

The source said that the government had to decide whether the withdrawal of the tax exemption would be applied retroactively or prospectively.

Honda has so far sold about 800 units of the new CRV since it was launched in April.

The Japanese car assembler is expected to strongly oppose the expected withdrawal of the tax exemption as such a move is seen to jack up the unit price of the CRV to levels that would drive it out of the AUV market.

The CRV sells for less than P1 million depending on the fuel type and engine displacement. The old CRV, since it seats less than 10 people, is more expensive because of the excise tax.

As an offshoot of the CRV case, the BIR will also issue a new revenue regulation this week that will tighten the policies on the exemption of 10-seater vehicles.

The government wanted to plug the revenue leaks in the system. The tax exemption was originally given only to Asian utility vehicles or those with local content of at least 60 percent. But in 1997, however, the BIR relaxed the rules to cover all vehicles with seating capacity of 10 or more, regardless of their local content. Thus, even certain expensive luxury vehicles were given exemption when jumper seats were installed in them.

In 1999, the BIR relaxed the policy further by adding Section 3 in the revenue regulation on 10-seater vehicles. It provides that "during times of conflicting interpretation, the manufacturer's brochure will prevail."

The brochure of the new CRV specified that the vehicle can seat 10 people and this qualifies the CRV to the tax exemption. But when the vehicle was re-measured late last week, the government declared that the vehicle's space is insufficient for 10 people.

The BIR at present slaps a 15-percent excise tax on vehicles with an engine displacement of 1.5 liter and lower. Vehicles with displacement of more than 1.5 liters but lower than 3 liters are slapped 35 percent to 50 percent. Those with engine displacement of 3 liters or more are charged an excise tax of 100 percent.

The government wanted to change the basis for excise tax exemption from seating capacity to the value or tag price of the vehicle.

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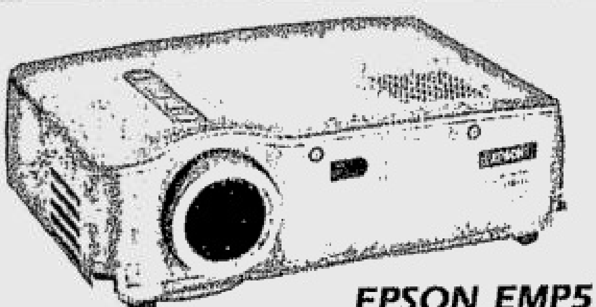

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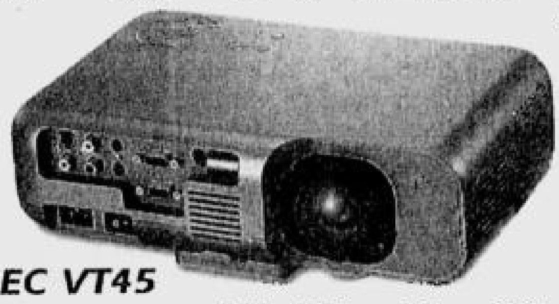

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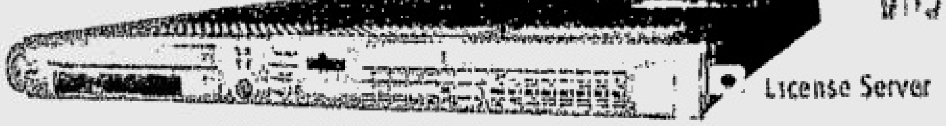

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PLDT BOARDROOM BRAWL

NTT reviewing Gokongwei's business record

By Abigail L. Ho

NIPPON Telegraph and Telephone Co. is reportedly evaluating the likelihood of taking in the Gokongwei group as a partner in running Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

"A key factor in NTT's forthcoming decision will be whether they would like Gokongwei as a partner or not," a person familiar with the situation told the INQUIRER.

NTT holds a 15-percent stake in PLDT and two board seats and is considered the pivotal player in a struggle for control of the country's No. 1 telecom company.

Tycoon John Gokongwei Jr. and First Pacific Co. Ltd. have agreed to form a joint venture that will hold First Pacific's 24.47-percent stake in PLDT—the single biggest—and the 50.4-percent stake of its Philippine unit, Metro Pacific Corp., in Bonifacio Land Corp.

The Gokongweis will pay the cash-hungry First Pacific over $600 million for a two-thirds stake in the joint venture.

The PLDT board, including PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan, opposes the deal, saying it will be detrimental to the company's finances and to shareholder value, prompting talk of a management led buy-out.

Persons familiar with the matter told the INQUIRER that NTT was studying how the Gokongwei group would fare as a partner.

Another source close to the negotiations disclosed that the Japanese firm was not only looking at which group would be able to shell out the largest amount of cash for First Pacific's 24.47-percent stake in PLDT but also which group would be the best to work with in the long term.

"To NTT, this is not just a matter of 'highest bidder wins.' They will support the partner that meets all their specifications," the source said.

An insider added that NTT was evaluating the "technical and management expertise of the Gokongweis in running a telecommunications company, considering they have no track record in this field."

The Gokongweis own and control Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc., the country's second-largest landline service provider. The firm has been in operation since the early '90s and now has over 400,000 subscribers all over Luzon.

Japanese equipment provider NEC Corp. was earlier reported to have expressed opposition to the Gokongweis' entry into PLDT on account of Digitel's failure to settle a supplier's credit worth nearly $300 million.

NEC's opinion on the matter was reportedly among those being considered by NTT.

A Digitel official said, however, that Digitel's relationship with NEC remained smooth, and that Digitel was, in fact, working on a new payment plan with NEC.

"We are currently renegotiating for a new payment plan. Basically, our discussions are very favorable. We mutually agreed to develop a new payment plan," he said.

Digitel director Lance Gokongwei added that the company's relationship with NEC was "good".

Apart from evaluating the Gokongwei group's capability in managing a telecom firm, NTT was also said to be examining the Gokongwei group's record in corporate governance, treatment of minority shareholders, as well as its public image.

PLDT's Pangilinan said on Friday that his talks NTT were fruitful, but he declined to disclose what was discussed.

Megaworld set on selling out of Fairmont

PROPERTY developer Megaworld Corp. plans to eventually sell out of Fairmont Holdings Inc., formerly gaming firm BW Resources Corp.

In an annual report to its stockholders, Megaworld said it reduced from 72.7 to 45 percent its equity in Fairmont when a portion of its investments worth about P330 million were exchanged for a parcel of land in Quezon City.

"The remaining investment in Fairmont shall be disposed of in due time based on the company's long-term plans, taking into consideration the current and future market conditions and the overall business objectives of the company and its consolidated subsidiaries," the report said.

Megaworld acquired 1.2 billion shares of Fairmont, then known as BW, as part of an asset-for-share swap involving the transfer of the company's Malate property now developed into a Sheraton Marina Complex. The infusion of the bingo operations of Best World Gaming and Entertainment Corp. owned by Estrada crony Dante Tan was originally intended to dilute Megaworld's exposure in BW.

Doris C. Dumlao

GSIS cleared on Napocor reinsurance

GARCIA

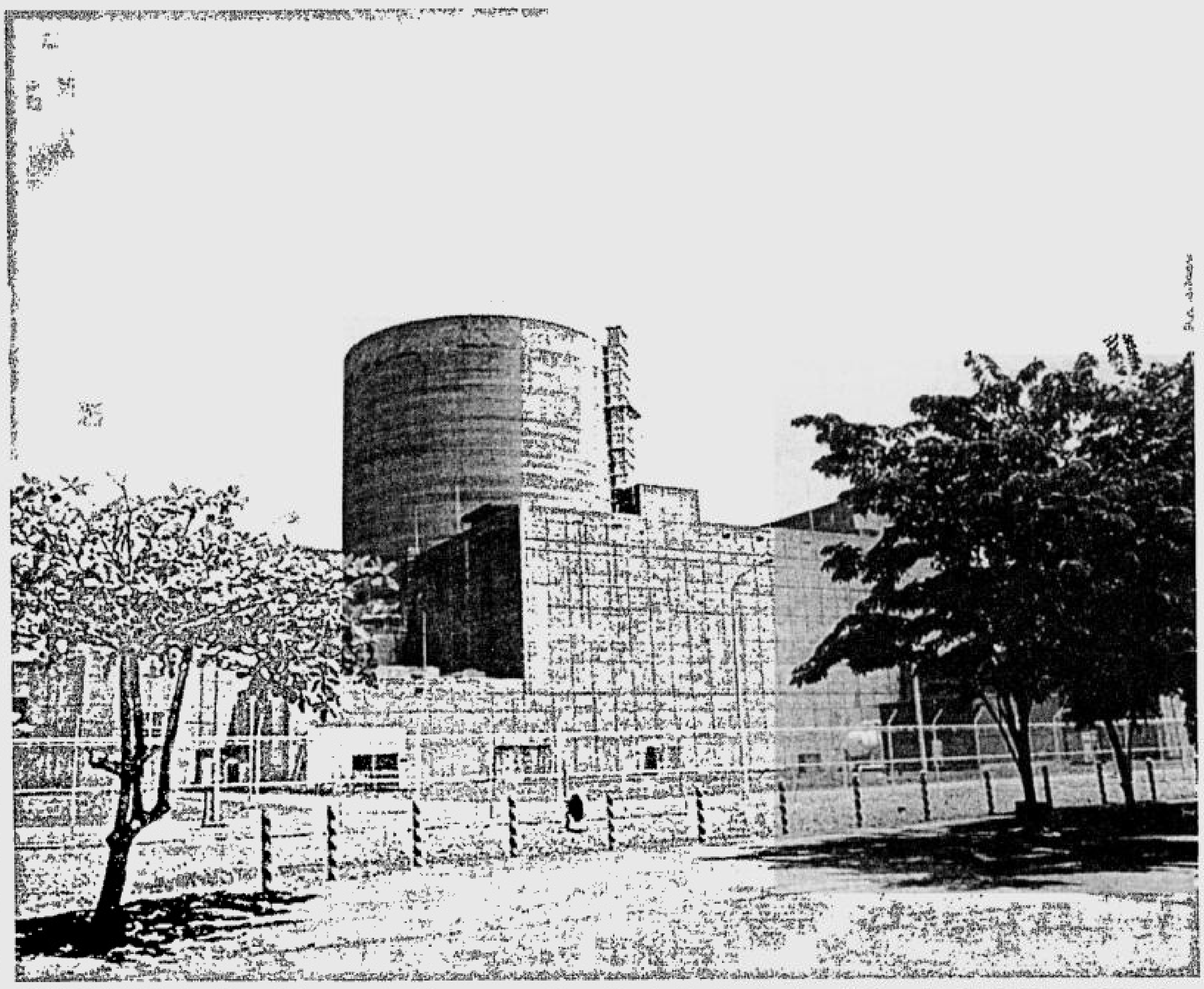
THE INSURANCE Commission has cleared state pension fund Government Service Insurance System of all charges involving the reinsurance premium of the National Power Corp. and its insurance claims.

In a letter to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Insurance Commission chief Eduardo Malinis said, "Latest information received indicated that almost all claims of Napocor have been settled."

"Regarding the reported overpricing of reinsurance" premium, Jardine Lloyd Thompson Insurance Brokers has fully explained and submitted documents to disprove the same. We find the explanation and submission satisfactory," Malinis said.

The Napocor risks were insured by GSIS, retaining 5 percent of the coverage and reinsuring 95 percent to foreign insurers through Jardine Lloyd.

"We are happy that finally, the GSIS and its General Insurance Group have been vindicated by no less than the Insurance Commission," GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia said.



THE BATAAN Nuclear Power Plant complex. The goverment has reiterated its intention to put this mothballed facility to other use.

PNOC still committed to using Bataan nuke plant

By Ronnel W. Domingo

STATE-RUN Philippine National Oil Co. said it remained committed and was actively seeking a partner to convert the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant to take in other types of fuel.

PNOC president Thelmo Cunanan said in an interview last week the firm was in talks with potential foreign partners in the bid to make the billion-dollar facility useful.

"We are pushing through with the bid to convert the BNPP if we can find a firm that can commit to do this project with us," Cunanan said.

The PNOC chief said the most serious of the prospective partners was a Chinese company, which had done preliminary studies for the project.

"This firm is looking into the possibility of making the BNPP use coal slurry or liquefied coal as fuel," he said.

Cunanan said a delegation from the Chinese firm was expected next month at the earliest to give feedback on the study that was done.

"There are also some companies from Japan who are interested in the BNPP conversion but they are not as serious as the Chinese are," he said.

Cunanan said the conversion of the nuclear plant was much needed as the government was paying millions of pesos a month for the amortization of its costs.

Construction of the 600-megawatt Bataan plant was started in the early 1980s during the Marcos administration.

But the succeeding Aquino administration mothballed the plant due to payoff anomalies in carrying out the project and fears of a possible nuclear disaster.

"All those money would really have been spent for nothing if we don't find a way to have a use for the Bataan plant," Cunanan said.

Energy experts said the decision to mothball the plant without building alternative power sources led the way to the crippling energy crisis of the early 1990s.

In earlier interviews, Cunanan also floated the idea of possibly converting the nuclear plant into a generator that uses natural gas.

He said a liquefied natural gas supply deal with Indonesia could secure the fuel for the National Power Corp.-owned facility.

Sy tenders proposal to operate Clark hotel-casino

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Business tycoon Henry Sy of SM Prime Holdings Inc. wants to operate a hotel-casino here, a Clark Development Corp. official said here on Friday.

CDC director Maximo Sangil said in a radio interview that Sy had already submitted to the CDC board his proposal to operate a hotel-casino inside the special economic zone.

CDC president and chief executive Emmanuel Angeles announced earlier the CDC board's approval of SM Prime's plan to build a P2-billion shopping mall here, which is expected to open within two years.

The mall here will be the second SM shopping center in Pampanga.

The first, SM City-Pampanga, was established in 2000 along the boundaries of San Fernando and Mexico in Pampanga.

Sangil said SM Prime Holdings was also set to rehabilitate the Bayanihan Park outside the main gate of this former US military base.

He said the park, which was being used only as terminal of jeepneys and buses, would be converted into a "world-class" theme park.

The CDC has issued notices to about 300 small traders at the Bayanihan Park to vacate the area.

However, instead of heeding the state-owned corporation's notice, the traders banded themselves to oppose their eviction.

Even the Salakot police station in the park's premises would have to be relocated.

Several traders inside and outside this special economic zone, including some duty-free shop owners, had also been opposing the planned establishment of an SM shopping mall here for fear that it would have an adverse effect on their businesses. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

SY

Ayala unit not interested in Maynilad

THE MANILA Water Co. Inc. said it was not keen on acquiring equities in twin concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc.

"We would rather just focus on our current service areas. As of now, we have to overcome a big hurdle in our rate rebasing exercises," Manila Water president Antonino Aquino told the INQUIRER.

Maynilad's parent firm, Benpres Holdings Inc., has been trying to put its 51-percent equity in its water distribution arm to stem heavy losses in its investments.

Benpres is seeking to reschedule all of its $596.9 million in debts, sell holdings in non-core subsidiaries and pursue further belt-tightening to restore its financial health. *Christine A. Gaylican*

New York Life appeals BSP insurance rule

NEW York Life Insurance Philippines Inc., local subsidiary of one of the world's largest insurers, has asked the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to ensure a "level playing field" by reconsidering a requirement that only bank subsidiaries will be allowed to sell insurance products through the branches of parent commercial banks.

The BSP reportedly will issue a circular this week allowing banks to sell insurance products of their subsidiaries, or units in which they have at least a 51-percent stake.

In a letter to BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura, New York Life Philippines president George May said: "The 51-percent ownership requirement by the bank appears to be somewhat discriminatory by limiting the participation to the two major banks—BPI (Bank of the Philippine Islands) and Metrobank (Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.). I believe that what is more important is the financial soundness of the insurance company and not the percent of ownership the bank has in the venture."

Elena R. Torrijos

OFW dollar flows hit $1.96B in first quarter

DOLLAR remittances from the country's overseas Filipino workers rose to $1.964 billion in the first quarter from a year earlier's $1.423 billion.

Data gathered by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed that in March alone, Filipino workers abroad remitted some $905 million to their families here.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the heavy inflow had helped keep the peso stable at around 49 to 50 to a dollar in recent months. It also contributed to a 4.9-percent growth in gross national product—a measurement of economic well-being—in the first quarter, he added.

Dollar remittances from overseas Filipino workers account for a substantial portion of GNP growth.

Clarissa S. Batino

SEC closes in on 'big fish' linked to Filinvest insider trading raps

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission's investigative unit said it had found evidence linking Filinvest Land Inc. directors, shareholders and their relatives to incidents of insider trading.

In a news briefing on Thursday, SEC compliance and enforcement department director Tomas Syquia said government regulators identified three groups of "big fish" that traded and sold heavily Filinvest shares before the property developer disclosed last February the conversion price of a controversial bond deal.

The disclosure of the conversion price, at that time a steep discount to the prevailing market price, led to a steep plunge in Filinvest share price.

"We are focusing only on the bigger fish. We've identified them already. Now we'll be going out and getting maybe phone records, so we will be able to pinpoint where people were at given times. Maybe in two, three weeks time, we will be able to say we have a case," Syquia said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange's compliance and surveillance group found evidence indicating some directors and shareholders of the Filinvest group, controlled and largely owned by the Gotianun family were involved in transactions that amounted to insider trading.

The CSG filed its report with the SEC last month.

Syquia said these three groups accounted separately for as much as 10 percent of the total volume of Filinvest shares traded in the November-February period of the investigation.

He explained that insiders included those who had information not public at that time, mostly directors, officers and their relatives, friends and other contacts.

These people, he said, might have known beforehand the conversion price of the bonds and sold heavily because they knew disclosure would lead to the fall in share prices.

Under the bond deal, Reco Grandhomes Pte. Ltd., a unit of the Government of Singapore Investment Corp. Pte., agreed to buy P1.2 billion in Filinvest bonds convertible immediately into the property firm's shares at a price ranging from P1.70 to P1.875.

The conversion price was much lower than Filinvest's prevailing market price at that time and when the bond agreement was disclosed on Feb. 5. This led to a steep decline in the shares of Filinvest.

A lot of investors lost money. They blamed Filinvest's alleged failure to disclose the material information for the fiasco.

Thirty brokers earlier urged the PSE to question alleged trading irregularities involving Filinvest, including the possibility insiders profited from the late disclosure given that the conversion price of the bond had been know to some even as early as December.

VHS movies on way out

RICHMOND, Virginia—Some national retailers, including Circuit City and Borders, are phasing out sales of VHS movies in a nod to the growing popularity of DVDs.

"The people who are buying movie titles these days want to buy them on DVD," Circuit City spokesperson Jim Babb said Friday. "People have embraced the technology in a big way, and we're responding to that by increasing the space given to DVD titles."

Some of the Richmond-based electronics chain's stores already have cleared their shelves of all VHS movies. The company will continue to sell VHS movies on its website and stock blank tapes and video cassette recorders in its more than 600 stores, Babb said.

Borders is largely phasing out VHS tapes except for sports and exercise videos, said Ann Binkley, a spokesperson for the book and music seller.

"For a big title, like Harry Potter, we'll bring a limited amount of VHS along with the DVD," Binkley said.

Charles Van Horn, president of the International Recording Media Association, a trade association based in Princeton, New Jersey, said the move to phase out VHS is premature. He noted that about 90 percent of US households have at least one VCR, while only about 30 percent have a DVD player.

"Circuit City will disappoint the 60 percent of consumers who have a VCR but no DVD," Van Horn said.

He said that while the DVD player is "the fastest growing video product ever," it will take time to catch up with the VCRs. And even after it does, the two products will coexist in most homes for years to come, he said.

Van Horn said other retailers are trimming their VHS movie inventory to make room for more DVDs, just as music stores cut back on cassettes to expand their CD selection. However, he does not expect other retailers to phase out VHS tapes any time soon.

Circuit City has no timetable for eliminating VHS tapes from all of its stores, Babb said. *AP*

Amid doubts on recovery, Fed likely to maintain rates

WASHINGTON—With rising fears about a stalling US economic recovery, the Federal Reserve is widely expected to keep key short-term interest rates at a 40-year low when it meets this coming week.

Although the Fed had been widely expected to tighten rates as the economy strengthened, analysts say the apparent sluggish pace of growth is likely to keep the Fed on hold—possibly through the end of the year.

With the Federal Open Market Committee meeting Tuesday and Wednesday, the federal funds rate of 1.75 percent is the lowest since 1961, following a series of rate cuts last year to help pull the economy out of recession.

US economic output expanded at a 5.6-percent pace in the first quarter of this year, but it was fueled largely by a sharp reduction in inventories rather than demand for goods and services.

The growth rate is widely expected to be much lower in the current quarter, and a few economists cite fears of sliding back into contraction, or a "double-dip" recession.

Kermit Schoenholtz, an economist at Salomon Smith Barney, said he sees the Fed keeping an "accommodative" stand for the near future.

"Central bank accommodation remains the order of the day," Schoenholtz said.

"The mix of low inflation and tighter financial conditions suggests that the path of US policy rates will remain lower than markets discount. Amid persistent uncertainty about the profile of the US recovery, the Fed probably will not hike rates in 2002."

The recovery is not as robust as some had expected even a few months ago, in part because job growth has been stagnant and consumers have turned cautious amid concerns about business, homeland security and global tensions.

The University of Michigan consumer-sentiment index underscored those concerns, dropping sharply in mid-June to 90.8 from 96.9 in May, the biggest single-month decline since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. *AFP*

No breakthroughs in bitter US-EU steel dispute

WASHINGTON—Trade negotiators from the United States and the European Union reported no breakthroughs Friday in a dispute involving steep tariffs the Bush administration imposed on foreign steel.

The EU indicated, however, it would delay a little longer before imposing retaliatory tariffs on US products.

US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick and EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy told reporters at a news conference that both sides were looking for a way to resolve the dispute, which has brought the world's largest trading partners to the brink of a trans-Atlantic trade war.

President Bush imposed tariffs of up to 30 percent on a range of steel products in March to protect the beleaguered US industry protection from a flood of imports that has contributed since 1997 to more than 30 bankruptcies of US steel companies and thousands of lost jobs in the industry.

The 15-nation EU and other trading partners contended the so-called safeguard sanctions were unjustified because steel imports already had peaked and were beginning to taper off when Bush sharply raised the tariffs. *AP*

Latin America rattled by weak Brazil, Argentina currencies

SAO PAULO—The sinking value of the Brazilian real Friday shook Latin America's economy, already battered by the effects of the lengthy Argentine recession.

The Brazilian real slipped to a record low in trading against the US dollar, pulled down by a negative Moody's rating and investor fear that leftist candidate Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva may win the October presidential election.

The real closed down 2.4 percent against the US dollar compared with Thursday's trading price, with each dollar selling for 2.84 reals—the worst exchange rate since September 2001's historic low of 2.835 to the dollar.

Since January, the real has dropped 16.2 percent of its value—9 percent in June alone.

The instability resulted in Brazil's risk premium rising above 1,700 points—one of the highest in the world, behind Argentina but ahead of Nigeria.

Traders and investors fear Lula will "renegotiate" payment on Brazil's $90-billion foreign debt—often seen as a euphemism for defaulting.

"What happened Friday is called panic," said Favio Gaudino, an analyst with Sudameris stockbrokers. "It was as if . . . Lula already had absolute advantage in the polls."

In Argentina, news that Central Bank President Mario Blejer will resign at the end of the month sent the MerVal stock index down 2.39 percent to 313.11 points, while the Argentine peso dropped 1.4 percent, closing at 3.63 to the dollar in bank transactions.

Blejer, a 21-year International Monetary Fund veteran who has been in place at the Central Bank since January, disagrees with policies carried out by Economy Minister Roberto Lavagna and will "hand in his resignation on June 30," according to the government source.

Blejer is likely to be replaced by his top assistant, Aldo Pignanelli, a Lavagna loyalist.

During Blejer's tenure the Central Bank's reserves dropped to less than $10 billion.

Argentine Cabinet chief Alfredo Atanasof raised the fear of regional contagion as a way to get the IMF to soften its strict requirements.

"We expect that the (Group of Seven industrialized nations) and the international lending organizations react on time and efficiently and help not only Argentina, but also the region," Atanasof warned.

For the past three months Argentina has been trying to get the IMF to restore credit lines closed due to Argentina's failure to meet payments.

Argentina "profoundly regrets" the crisis in other countries, Atanasof said—an oblique reference to countries such as Uruguay, which was forced to float its currency Thursday, pressured by financial instability in neighboring Argentina and nearby Brazil.

The Uruguayan peso promptly dropped 16.8 percent against the dollar but remained stable in Friday trading.

Until Thursday the peso had traded within a 12-percent band against the dollar, with the band limits regularly altered by the Central Bank to allow a controlled devaluation of the currency.

Argentina is mired in a four-year recession. Unemployment has hit a record 25 percent, and 50 percent of the population is now living in poverty, according to government figures.

Credit has dried up since last year, when Argentina suspended payments on its $141-billion public debt.

As the real slipped, the Chilean peso dropped 1.3 percent against the US dollar, a 3.8-percent drop in one week. Analysts directly link the Chilean currency's drop to the fall in the real's value. *AFP*

IBM shares slide to four-year low

NEW YORK—International Business Machines Corp. shares slid for the fifth straight day on Friday to a low not seen in nearly four years as investors bet that the No. 1 computer maker will miss current earnings estimates due to depressed tech spending.

IBM, which sells everything from personal computers to computer services to software, reflects the extended downturn in the technology industry, analysts say, and that means its quarterly and annual results won't measure up.

Lehman Brothers and SoundView Technology Group on Friday joined other Wall Street investment banks that took action earlier this week, such as Morgan Stanley, and lowered forecasts for the Armonk, New York-based company.

IBM's stock, which has lost ground each day this week, fell on Friday by nearly 4 percent, or $2.83, to $68.75—its lowest level since October of 1998.

"It's just a reflection of the lack of catalyst, or lack of improvement in spending, at least near term," said Sunil Reddy, a portfolio manager for Fifth Third Bank in Cincinnati, Ohio.

"At $70, I think it's pretty attractive but the fundamentals in the technology industry have not improved, to say the least," Reddy said. Fifth Third owns shares in IBM.

IBM, once seen as a safe-have investment immune to the technology downturn, has come under pressure this year as the lack of spending on technology by corporations that has cut into its once consistent earnings growth.

The company's chief executive officer, Sam Palmisano, who took over in March from now chair Louis Gerstner, has since sold the company's hard disk drive business, set broad job cuts and seen IBM through its largest earnings drop in nearly a decade. *Reuters*

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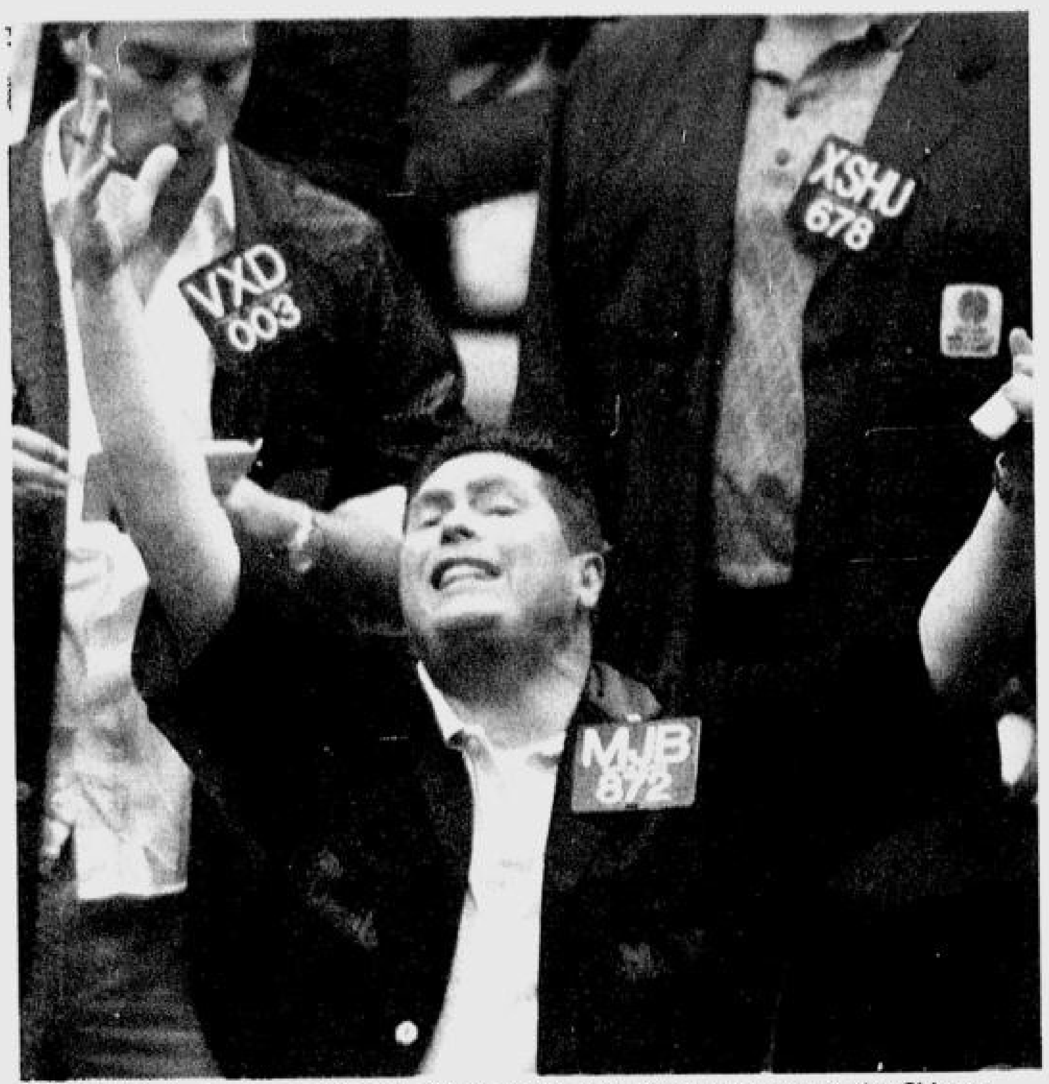

TRADER Marty Burke shouts out a trade in the S&P 500 Futures pit at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange near the close of trading Friday. Stocks fell as a result of bad corporate news and fears of terrorism to give Wall Street its fifth straight losing week. The Dow Jones industrials closed the day down 177.98 AP

Crisis of confidence still hangs over US economy

WASHINGTON—More than six months after the meltdown of Enron Corp., a crisis of confidence still hangs over corporate America, punishing Wall Street and threatening to derail the US economic recovery.

The collapse of Enron amid revelations of accounting misdeeds, followed by a string of other corporate scandals, highlighted concerns that the system of checks and balances in corporate governance is failing.

This in turn has left investors discouraged, and has prompted a flurry of activity in Washington and in corporate America to shore up confidence in the midst of the worst series of corporate transgressions in decades.

"Respect for business and business credibility is at the lowest point since 1916," says Richard Cavanagh, president of the Conference Board, a business research group.

Some blame lingering greed from the 1990s boom, others cite the practice of awarding stock options that provides incentives to manipulate accounting. Still others say the accounting profession has strayed from its role as a check against management.

The public has had plenty to be discouraged about since the Enron affair, which saw the seventh largest US company implode from a series of smoke-and-mirrors accounting tricks:

- Audit firm Arthur Andersen has been convicted of obstruction of justice for seeking to thwart a probe into Enron.
- The former chief of industrial conglomerate Tyco has been charged with tax evasion.
- Merrill Lynch has paid a $100-million fine to settle allegations that it tried to promote some stocks its analysts thought were duds.
- Stock market regulators and other authorities have launched numerous probes into accounting fraud, insider trading and price-fixing.

"From Enron to Arthur Andersen to Merrill Lynch, corporate irresponsibility is rampant, and it's time to do something about it," says John Sweeney, president of the AFL-CIO labor federation.

"Every day seems to bring news about another CEO accused of doing something illegal," said Alfred Goldman, chief market strategist at AG Edwards.

"When buying common stock, investors are buying a concept, an intangible asset, called potential appreciation. It is very valid for folks to be concerned about buying a concept when they don't know whether they can trust the management of a company. This is a very serious problem facing our whole system of capitalism and the future growth prospects for our country."

Sung Won Sohn of Wells Fargo Bank adds, "The danger is that the recent decline in the stock market and poor investor sentiment could soon translate into worsening consumer and business sentiment that would further constrain, if not choke-off, the economic recovery."

The Conference Board and another corporate group, the Business Roundtable, have set up committees to examine the problem, and a series of reforms are being proposed by the Bush administration, the US Congress, regulatory agencies and the major US stock exchanges. *AFP*

Wall Street looks for way up as stock prices hit new lows

NEW YORK—Wall Street looks for a way to stem the bloodbath Monday after stocks tumbled to new lows for the year amid a persistent crisis of confidence and growing security fears.

The Dow Jones industrials tumbled 2.38 percent for the week to Friday to end at 9,253.79, while the Standard and Poor's 500 shed 1.83 percent to 989.14, falling below the key level of 1,000.

The tech-heavy Nasdaq composite lost 4.43 percent to 1,440.96.

The Nasdaq and S&P 500 hit their lowest levels since Sept. 21, widely considered the "bottom" for the markets after the Sept. 11 terror attacks. The Dow hit its lowest level since last Oct. 31.

Investors, spooked by growing security fears and corporate scandals, paid little heed to economic data over the past week, which was generally upbeat if not spectacular.

The index of leading economic indicators increased 0.4 percent in May, while housing starts surged nearly 12 percent during the month, and jobless claims held below the 400,000 level for the third straight week.

But the good news was overshadowed by news of the trade deficit hitting a record level, sending the dollar tumbling and raising fears that the United States will have a harder time attracting needed foreign capital.

More troubling were fears of a terrorist attack around the July 4 national holiday and the growing number of corporate scandals in the wake of the Enron affair that have hurt investor confidence.

Even President George W. Bush weighed in on this issue Friday, saying that a few "bad apples" are hurting the markets, while expressing confidence in the overall system.

"I do think there is an overhang over the market of distrust," he said.

"There are some bad apples . . . and the business world must clean up its act. I mean, people have got to have confidence as to whether or not the assets and liabilities are good numbers."

Alfred Goldman of AG Edwards called the issue a serious problem.

"Enronitis" has been found in a number of other well-known companies, and Arthur Andersen—a prior paragon of respectability—has been found guilty of obstruction of justice," he said.

"Every day seems to bring news about another CEO accused of doing something illegal . . . This is a very serious problem facing our whole system of capitalism and the future growth prospects for our country."

Other analysts say the markets will remain sluggish despite strong economic fundamentals until investors appear convinced profits will return.

"We do not question that recovery can be accomplished, but we do wonder about the profit potential and the probability for disappointments in mid-2003," said Salomon Smith Barney's Tobias Levkovich.

Wall Street has been searching for the elusive "bottom" marked by a sharp capitulation selloff that allows traders to spark a new rally.

But Levkovich said, "We suspect that final capitulation may not come until investors give up their dreams of the tech comeback."

Tech shares were especially hard hit over the past week, with IBM down 9.74 percent to 68.75, Dell off 6.77 percent to 23.98, Apple losing 16.17 percent to 16.85 and Advanced Micro Devices shedding 16.25 percent to 8.04. *AFP*

Gloria to CEOs: Give poor youths jobs
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A leader in non-life insurance is born

The Bank of the Philippine Islands has joined forces with Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Company Limited, one of the largest insurance companies in Japan, to form a new non-life insurance company, BPI/MS Insurance Corporation.

BPI vice chairman Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala and Mitsui Sumitomo chairman Takeo Inokuchi press down switch to "unveil" BPI/MS logo.

BPI/MS Insurance Corp. has combined the operations of FGU Insurance Corp. and FEB Mitsui Marine Insurance Co., two of the ten largest non-life insurance companies in the country. This consolidation makes BPI/MS one of the top three players in the non-life insurance industry, which includes more than 100 companies.

The joint venture brings together the financial strength of BPI and the global underwriting expertise of Mitsui Sumitomo. The Japanese insurer underwrote about $13 billion in premium business last year in Japan alone. With a stockholders' equity of $10 billion, Mitsui Sumitomo is a fast-growing international company with presence in 40 countries worldwide. In its home country, Mitsui Sumitomo has 90,000 agents operating from over 800 branch offices. Worldwide, the company counts among its core clients global Japanese firms whose brands are household names, such as Sony, Toyota, Toshiba, NEC and Sharp.

BPI is the country's leading bank with 150 years of banking excellence behind it. BPI has been recognized as the most financially sound and the best managed bank in various management awards given in the past several years. It has a network of some 700 branches throughout the country, serving over three million customers.

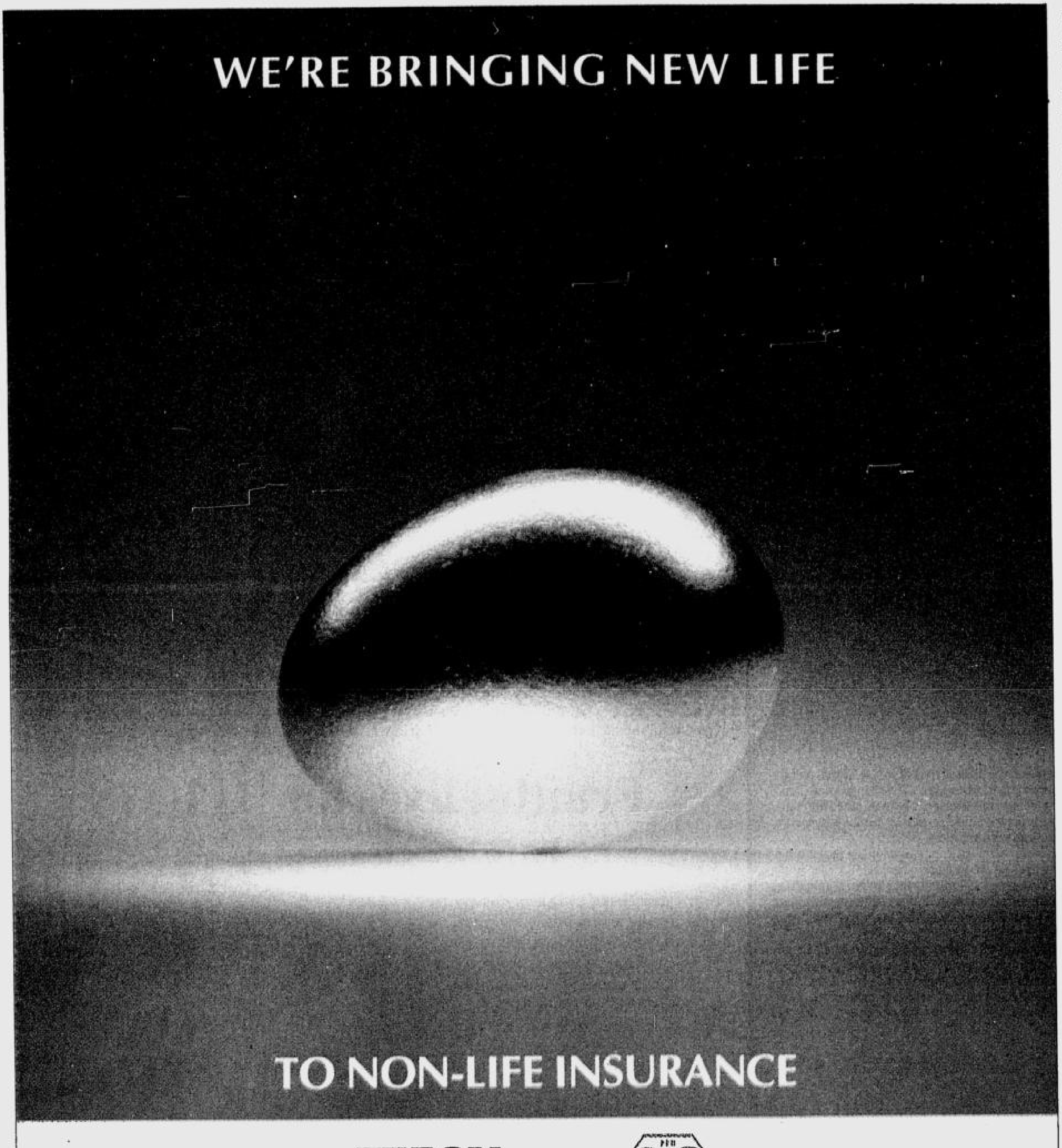
BPI/MS is heir to the heritage of trust nurtured by FGU Insurance Corp. The latter's forerunner, Filipinas Compañia de Seguros, was established in 1913. BPI/MS also benefits from the dynamism of FEB Mitsui, a company which, though relatively young, had become one of the top 10 non-life insurers by the time BPI merged with Far East Bank and Trust Co. in 2000. The combination of FGU and FEB Mitsui puts together in the fold of BPI/MS the complementation of experience and idealism, maturity and exuberance.

CONSTRUCTION giant F. F. Cruz and BPI/MS chairman Xavier P. Loinaz

Already, the new company is among the leading non-life insurance companies in the country, with total assets worth P3.5 billion, and paid-up capital of P300 million, one of the largest in the industry. BPI/MS also taps into the vast reinsurance capacity of Mitsui Sumitomo.

BPI/MS was formally launched last Friday, June 21, in Manila Diamond Hotel, with Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis as its guest of honor.

The company also recently inaugurated its new head office at the 11th and 16th floors of the Ayala Life-FGU-Center on Ayala Avenue, Makati City. The company operates from 12 branch offices, seven of them located in Luzon, and five in Visayas and Mindanao. It serves its vast client base through more than 1000 agents and brokers throughout the country, and has close working relations with the BPI Bancassurance Group.



FGU INSURANCE CORPORATION
FEB MITSUI MARINE

Now, FGU Insurance Corporation and FEB Mitsui Marine Insurance Company, Inc. have combined operations, coming to life as BPI/MS Insurance Corporation. BPI/MS is a joint venture between two leaders: Bank of the Philippine Islands, one of the country's most respected banking institutions, and Mitsui Sumitomo, one of Japan's largest non-life insurance companies. With its heritage of strength and leadership, BPI/MS shall live on as a trusted name in the non-life insurance industry.

FOR FGU AND FEB MITSUI POLICYHOLDERS:
Your policies shall remain in force and valid until their expiration date and will be renewed as a BPI/MS policy. Claims filed against these policies shall be honored by BPI/MS Insurance Corporation.

BPI/MS
BPI/MS Insurance Corporation
A joint venture of the **Bank of the Philippine Islands & Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance**
HEAD OFFICE: 11th and 16th Floors, Ayala Life-FGU Center, 6811 Ayala Avenue, Makati City Tel. No. 840-9000

A resplendent night for the insurance world

It was a picture of elegance and simplicity, a sophisticated fusion of the cultural motifs of the Philippines and Japan. In cleverly executed graphics, music, symbolic ritual and impeccable cuisine, the big bash that celebrated the inauguration of the new non-insurance company—BPI/MS Insurance Corporation—last June 21 at a posh hotel on Roxas Boulevard attracted a select crowd of several hundred of the country's managerial elite and outstanding professionals, successful entrepreneurs, and highly regarded government leaders.

BPI/MS has excellent forebears, its parent firms being the Bank of the Philippine Islands and Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co. Ltd. of Japan, two of the most enduring and respectable names in Asian and global business. It is also heir to the towering track record of FGU Insurance Corp., the oldest and one of the most trusted insurers in the country, and FEB Mitsui, already chalking impressive gains despite its youth, which were folded into BPI/MS.

LEADING the toast: BPI/MS chairman Xavier P.Loinaz, BPI/MS president Ryuichi Ito, Japanese charges d'affaires Yoshiyuki Sadaoka, Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis, BPI vice chairman Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala and Mitsui Sumitomo chairman Takeo Inokuchi.

The host Filipino business luminaries were led by Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, vice chairman of the Bank of the Philippine Islands; Xavier P. Loinaz, president of BPI, and chairman of BPI/MS; and Alfonso Salcedo Jr., BPI/MS board director.

The host Japanese officials were Mitsui Sumitomo chairman Takeo Inokuchi, BPI/MS president Ryuichi Ito, board directors Takazumi Kanai, Haruo Kawamoto, Shuji Ohmoto, Mutsuo Watada and Junichi Imai.

The government officials who graced the occasion included the guest of honor, Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis and Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo.

The Japanese *chargès d'affaires* Yoshiyuki Sadaoka, was there, too, to give his best wishes to the new company.

THE HUGE crowd of dignitaries, guests, clients and guests amidst a ballroom enlivened by Philippine and Japanese motifs.

The eminent Chairman and CEO of Mitsui Sumitomo, Takeo Inokuchi, flew in from Tokyo with his beautiful wife, Yuko. They were introduced to the managers and staff of BPI/MS by its President, Mr. Ito, when the couple visited the company's head office on the 11th and 16th floors of the Ayala Life-FGU Center building on Ayala Avenue, Makati on Thursday. A large contingent of Japanese businessmen was in the Friday celebration, many of whom represented the global companies that are part of the loyal clientele of Mitsui Sumitomo.

BPI/MS board director Junichi Imai with Mrs. Yuko Inokuchi and Mrs. Ito.

A moving yet informative audio-visual presentation captured the dynamism, customer-orientation, the culture of integrity and reliability that BPI/MS is committed to live up to. The red, oval-shaped logo of the company was also revealed in heart-thumping video, and its symbolism explained in brochures distributed to guests and clients.

Earlier in the week, the BPI/MS head office held its blessing and inauguration, and the company officials also conducted a press conference with the biggest print media and TV networks in attendance. Visitors were impressed with the pleasant and well-appointed offices of the new company where customers and agents could be given superior service and have friendly interaction.

Messages

I convey my sincerest congratulations and best wishes to the **BPI/MS Insurance Corporation** *on the occasion of is formal inauguration.*

Established as a joint venture of the Bank of the Philippine Islands and the Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co. Ltd. of Japan, BPI/MS Insurance Corporation's inauguration marks a milestone in the growth and development of the local non-life insurance industry and is an indication of the continuing cooperation between Philippine and Japanese business.

The non-life insurance industry is a necessary component of the rapid recovery and stabilization of the Philippine economy and our growing competitiveness in many industries. I am glad to note that the corporation will focus on providing much-needed insurance coverage to companies and entrepreneurs as well as foreign enterprises operating in the country to counter the risks and unpredictability that are inherent in any business operation. Providing the same coverage to homeowners, families, and even individuals for the protection of their properties and investments is equally commendable.

I have the highest expectation that the BPI/MS will be an active player in the local non-life insurance industry, combining, as it were, the experience and reputation of the Bank of the Philippine Islands with the global expertise of Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co. Ltd. of Japan.

H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
President
Republic of the Philippines

◆

Our warmest greetings to the **Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI)** and the **Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Corporation of Japan (MSIC)** for entering into a joint venture to form the **BPI-MS Insurance Corporation** -- which is expected to become a leading player in the local non-life insurance industry.

It is heartening to note that Filipino businessmen and entrepreneurs, and even regular emplyees who wish to pretect their homes, cars and other properties, are the target beneficiaries of this new corporation -- whose customer-centric orientation and excellent track record in sales and services would surely come to the fore, courtesy of the productive corps of highly experienced and tested agents and brokers of the former **FGU Insurance Corporation** and **FEB Mitsui Marine Insurance Corporation.**

The participation of **Mitsui Sumitomi Insurance Corporation of Japan** in this joint venture sends a strong signal of confidence to the international business community that the Philippines is, indeed, a feasible platform for overseas operations. thus, we definitely look forward to the success of **BPI-MS Insurance Corporation** as this would serve as another shining testimony to what Filipino-Japanese collaboration in investments and services can achieve for the mutua benefit of the two countries' business communities.

Mabuhay!

Manuel A. Roxas II
Secretary
Department of Trade and Industry

◆

The partnership between the Bank of the Philippine Islands and the Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co. Ltd. to form BPI/MS Insurance Corporation is further affirmation of the strong ties between the Philippines and Japan, and the readiness of their respective business sectors to explore mutually beneficial joint ventures.

This cordial relationship was clearly manifested in the recent trip of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to Japan where Her Excellency and the Philippine delegation had the opportunity to meet not only with the highest ranking government ministers led by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi but also the top business executives, including Mr. Takeo Inokuchi, Chairman of the Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co. Ltd.

We have the highest expectations that BPI/MS Insurance Corporation, which combines the experience, reputation and service-orientation of their mother corporations as well as their immediate forebears, the FGU Insurance Corp. and FEB Mitsui Marine Insurance Corp., will invigorate the local non-life insurance industry. BPI's 150-year experience in banking and financial services and Mitsui Sumitomo's global sophistication and considerable resources give BPI/MS Insurance Corporation excellent credentials.

Best wishes to BPI/MS Insurance Corporation.

Jose Isidro N. Camacho
Secretary
Department of Finance

◆

I join the insurance business community in congratulating Bank of the Philippine Islands and Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co. Ltd. on the inauguration of their joint venture, BPI/MS Insurance Corporation.

The new company will surely further enliven the non-life insurance industry as it signifies the commitment of two trusted names in the Asian region to dedicate their resources in offering non-life insurance products to the business community.

The new venture is a timely response to the growing need for insurance services in the country as the economy enters a new phase of resurgence.

It deserves all our support and our best wishes for its success!

Eduardo Malinis
Insurance Commissioner
Insurance Commission

◆

With the increasingly globalized economy, we will see more and more of the kind of partnership that has brought together the Bank of the Philippine Islands and Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co. Ltd. of Japan. Their joint venture in BPI/MS Insurance Corporation brings together local expertise reinforced by global strength. Their client base can only benefit from such a union in terms of enhanced and more timely service delivery, and insurance coverages tailor-fit to their needs.

The excellent reputation of BPI and the enviable track record that had been earned by FGU Insurance Corp. have created a pool of seasoned insurance agents and brokers that gives BPI/MS a significant competitive edge.

We thus have great expectations for the success of BPI/MS Insurance Corporation. We wish it all the best as it immerses itself in the excitement and opportunities of the local non-life insurance industry.

Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II
Vice-Chairman
Bank of the Philippine Islands

Fruitful lives for BPI/MS business partners

MANUEL Suarez, Victor Santos and Ruben Olayres give the thumbs up sign to BPI/MS.

A career in the insurance industry is usually seen as a daunting prospect especially for those who hardly have any idea of what the job entails. But for FGU Insurance Corporation's top producers, who are now a part of a new company called BPI/MS Insurance Corp., a successful insurance career is definitely worth having.

BPI/MS Insurance Corp. was recently formed when the strength, expertise, experience and resources of the Bank of the Philippine Islands and Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co. Ltd. were merged, paving the way for its top producers to gain access to greater support and benefits and enhanced services and products for their customers.

Manuel Suarez has spent the last 33 years working for FGU. Inspired by his father, who worked for 45 years also as an FGU agent, Suarez says, "Being a business partner of FGU gave me increased financial security, something that I can't imagine having had I remained a regular employee," he says.

Now, Suarez can send his children to some of the country's top schools like Poveda and DLSU. "With my work, I have also learned to become more responsible and enjoy what life has to offer, I can now travel, buy a car and properties. I wouldn't have it any other way."

It didn't take long for Ruben Olayres to realize the benefits of being an insurance agent. While working as a motor claims assistant for FGU from 1973 till 1984, he saw the potential in becoming an FGU business partner. "Being an agent enables me to meet all sorts of clients and enjoy recognition from the company. Plus, I get to manage my own time, " he says.

"And like most successful agents, I now enjoy lots of perks like being able to buy a car, some properties, travel, send my kids to the best schools. I'm just glad that I made the switch to become an agent."

For Pedro Baquero, having an unlimited source of income was what attracted him to become an FGU business partner. He has also learned to treasure the satisfaction of having to provide invaluable service to his clients. "Being an agent also frees you from office intrigues," he enthuses. "I'm glad we don't have that here in FGU because we are a family and you feel a sense of belonging and involvement. What's more, there's less pressure because you have your own time to do the things you want to do."

Victor Santos Jr. didn't see his career as a regular employee going anywhere so he decided to become an FGU business partner. "From being just a regular guy with limited resources, my career at FGU enabled me to buy properties, cars, race horses and send my kids to the country's prestigious schools," he says. "The feeling of not having to worry about my family's future is incalculable."

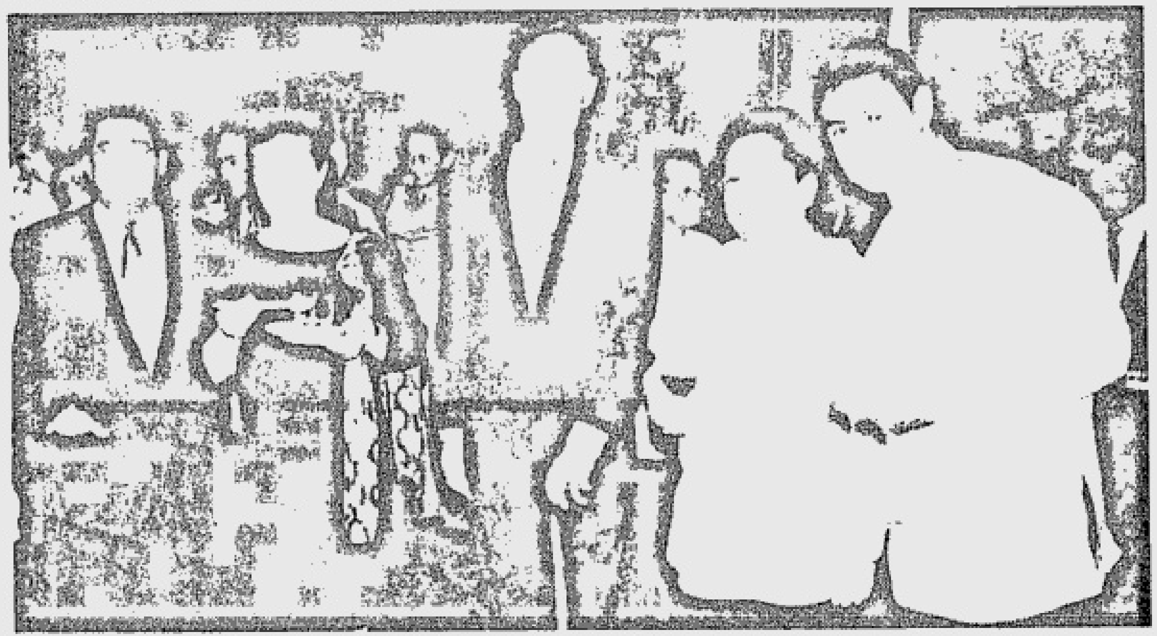
FGU endeavors to support its business partners as it transforms into a stronger, more dynamic entity called BPI/MS Insurance Corporation. With the combined strength, expertise, experience and resources of the Bank of the Philippine Islands and Mitsui Sumitomo, BPI/MS Insurance Corporation is bound to take the local insurance industry to greater heights.

"Fusion and synergy, the coming together of two cultures, and two highly regarded firms"

RIGHT, Japanese charges d'affaires Sadaoka and Jaime Augusto Zobel. *Far right*, Cutting the ribbon: Front row, Deputy Insurance Commissioner Vida Chiong, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Insurance Commissioner Malinis; back row, BPI/MS chairman Loinaz, BPI/MS president Ito, BPI/MS board directors Mutsuo Watada and Alfonso Salcedo Jr.

Blessing of new BPI/MS head office

MARKETING director Herbert Tuason, Underwriting and Claims head Redentor Magat, Commissioner Eduardo Malinis, Zuellig EVP Augusto Toledo II and Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo.



AYALA AON president James Matti, Sherry Long, Ayala AON chief operating officer Anthony Long, BPI/MS board director Salcedo, and program host Anthony Pangilinan.

Customized for efficiency and warmth

THE CENTER OF GRAVITY of the non-life insurance industry is now in a beautiful and graciously modern building that adds to the architectural resurgence of Makati's Central Business District in recent years.

It is the home of the BPI/MS Insurance Corp. at 6811 Ayala Avenue.

This new head office of BPI/MS was the focus of excitement last June 18 when it was blessed and inaugurated in appropriate ceremony, and the new firm held its first press conference.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis, Deputy Commissioner Vida Chiong, BPI/MS Chairman Xavier P. Loinaz, President Ryuichi Ito, and the Board Members led in the blessing and good-luck ritual of coin-throwing to the screaming delight of the employees.

The head office had been designed for efficiency and warmth in attending to the needs of customers, and the health and productivity of the staff and the agents and brokers who regularly come by. One can readily see this in the well-lighted airy atmosphere and the hospitable reception that characterizes office transactions.

The customer-friendly design is also apparent in the matte-blue wooden reception counter , behind which BPI/MS employees could attend to guests and customers with expertise and courtesy on just about any requirement they have with the company.

The open-plan modernistic office layout, with staff members working within low-walled cubicles, allows them to work in private but at the same time to interact quickly with most of their associates. Managers have taller walls so they can have more privacy and focus, but also be accessible to everyone who wishes to consult with them.

The colors are muted and "corporate" but somehow evoke a young, less formal look. The flexible furnishings also feature conference rooms and work spaces that could be reconfigured in various ways whenever needed.

BPI/MS head office reception counter hums with close interaction between customers, agents and staff.

BPI/MS Insurance Corporation
Bank of the Philippine Islands & Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance

MEETING the press: BPI/MS board director Watada, president Ito, and officer Nozomu Matsue.

Interview: Chairman Inokuchi

Global Player with Asian Roots

His sturdy build and brisk movement, the clear tanned skin and distinguished salt-and-pepper hair, the easy way he carries his smart suit on his medium frame. The impression that the head honcho of Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co. Ltd., Takeo Inokuchi, gives is one of trustworthiness, wisdom and discipline. A man of deep intelligence, straightforward frankness, and world sophistication. In periods of great stress and complex challenges, you'd want this person to be on your side.

Inokuchi met President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo when she visited Tokyo recently, and was impressed that she "looked very young" but she appeared to be "seriously doing her best to contribute to her country's economic development."

The Filipino President had "passion," Inokuchi said, revealing his own great respect for people who gave everything they had to their commitments.

This is Inokuchi-san's fourth visit to the Philippines, always on a business trip. He thought that his first visit years ago was memorable because, at that time, he contacted the then Insurance Commissioner to assist in technology transfer that would help develop the local insurance industry.

He was president of Mitsui Marine Insurance Co., one of the high points of his 37 years of involvement in the insurance business. Later, Mitsui merged with Sumitomo Insurance Co. to give rise to Mitsui Sumitomo, one of the leading insurers in Japan and in the world, with Inokuchi at its helm.

He said he found BPI an ideal joint-venture partner because it had very good corporate clients, an extensive client base including professionals and income-earners with cars and homes, and had a very sound financial condition and time-tested stability which earned the trust of its customers.

Mitsui Sumitomo has a simple formula for success and the acceptance of the many countries where it operates, Inokuchi said. Wherever the company is—and it is present in some 40 countries—MS goes for "localization" and plows back to the local economy what it earns there. He finds "relaxation" by going around the branches and visiting foreign offices to meet and encourage the employees, and it is his source of satisfaction and energy to find the employees to be doing well and giving good service to their customers.

The Japanese executive has a bachelor's degree in law and politics from Tsukuba University in Ibaraki, Japan and was chairman, president and CEO of Mitsui Marine and Fire Insurance Co. Ltd. after rising from senior management positions there since 1990.

Since April 1996, he has been executive member of the Board of Directors of Japan's Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), From July of the following year, he has been executive member of the Board of Directors of the Keidanren, a powerful organization of industry leaders.

At home, he finds time to do gardening and grow flowers and other ornamentals, even fruit trees. He said he admires the many flowers he sees in the Philippines during his visits, but could not bring them with him to Japan because of quarantine restrictions.

NEWLY arrived from Tokyo, Chairman Inokuchi takes time to chat with BPI/MS agents.

CHAIRMAN Takeo Inokuchi

BPI/MS agents from the green, orange, and purple teams cheer on their teammates in the contests held during the sales drive launch.

New firm believes fun-filled camaraderie spurs productivity

THE LOYAL corps of insurance agents, over 1000 of them, which form the bulwark of BPI/MS's competitive thrust may be among the most experienced, hardworking and productive in the industry, but they also know how to have fun!

This is evident in the various team-building, friendly competitions and socials that bond them together throughout the year. "This is proof that the company goes beyond the mere act of recognizing your efforts but rewards your hard work as well," said Board Member Alfonso "Yogi" Salcedo in one of the regular group games that make working with BPI/MS challenging but also fulfilling.

"All work and no play makes anyone a dull person" seems to be the motto of the go-go team of agents whose drive and enthusiasm make the firm a formidable force in the business.

PRESIDENT Ryuichi Ito addresses the agency force in the launch of BPI/MS Sales Drive. The amazing guest beside her is Mylene Dizon, the host for the affair.

The BPI/MS Logo

Dynamic red, protective oval

At the heart of BPI/MS symbol is the "red protective oval" derived from the shape of an egg's protective shell. This oval shape signifies BPI/MS' core product of insurance protection while the color red represents dynamism, one of the distinct traits of the 2 merging companies of FGU and FEB Mitsui.

The sunburst inside the oval is the thrust of BPI/MS to be a consumer-driven organization serving as the "light" in the insurance industry.

BPI/MS

BPI lends its gold and red colors to signify its full support for the company's growth. Italicized letters are used to underscore fast and efficient customer service. The slash in between signifies the individual commitment of both BPI and Mitsui Sumitomo to nurture the growth of the company. The slash goes out of the boundary to highlight a company that is open to its surroundings, constantly scanning the environment for continued innovation.

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Smart, KTF unveil unmatched int'l roaming services

MOBILE phone subscribers in the Philippines are now able to enjoy true international roaming features in South Korea, thanks to a breakthrough technology offered by Smart Communications and Korean Telecom Freetel (KTF). Previously limited by differences in operating platforms – the Philippine market being dominated by the Global System for Mobile (GSM) phone standard (the norm in most of Europe and Asia); and South Korea, the Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) / 1x system – the close to 7 million subscribers on the Smart network can now use their SIM cards in South Korea, just in time to catch the action at World Cup 2002 and the coming Asian Games.

The breakthrough inter-platform service is made possible by the International Roaming Gateway (IGRS), which allows GSM Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) cards to operate on specially designed GSM-CDMA/ 1x hybrid mobile phones, and function over a CDMA/1x network.

All Smart subscribers have to do is bring their SIM cards to Korea, rent a handset and insert their SIM cards. Then they will continue to enjoy all the unmatched services offered by Smart – this time, in far-away South Korea – just as if they had never left the Philippines. The service is true international roaming as never before enjoyed in a non-GSM country.

The availability of Smart International Roaming in South Korea is another unmatched innovation offered by the company to its subscribers.

PMA APPOINTS PR ARM

The Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) recently entered into an agreement with Public Relations and Editorial Services Systems Inc. (Press Inc.) to be its official PR agency for the 33rd National Marketing Conference (NMC) on July 3 and 4 at the Westin Philippine Plaza. The two-day conference will be a celebration of marketing success stories by leaders in the marketing field from the Philippines and Southeast Asia. This year's theme "Winning in Tough Times: Stand Out or Lose Out" will focus on various marketing management and business tactics designed to help companies succeed in these trying economic times. Sealing the agreement with a handshake are Ma. Victoria Anonuevo, PMA president, and CJ Bite, PR executive of Press Inc. (third and fourth from left). With them are, from left, Jos Ortega, overall chair, Von Hizon, program chair, Marichell Tan, media officer of Press Inc., and Henry Tenedero, co-chair. For inquiries, call PMA at 893-7127, 892-3144, and 813-0466, or e-mail pma@philonline.com.

'CELEBRATE PHILIPPINES' AT BAYVIEW PARK

Bayview Park Hotel Manila, 'Your Home by the Bay', recently launched the much-awaited grand event dubbed 'Celebrate Philippines' which started June 5 until 25. Shown throwing the coins for good luck are (from left) positivism artist ER Tagle, Department of Tourism Undersecretary Evelyn Pantig, Bayview's director of sales and marketing Marie Jean dela Cruz, wife of the former president of Siliman University, and Bayview general manager lawyer Eugene Yap.

New playground of alternative sports opens at Rockwell

ROCKWELL'S Power Plant Mall continues to live up to its reputation of always being the first in offering something new and unique to mallgoers with the opening of Play Underground.

Play Underground is the newest playground of alternative sports, extreme games, and special events right at the heart of the mall. It is located at the parking level 3 of Power Plant wherein kids, teenagers, yuppies, couples and senior citizens can experience the 'ultimate adventure.'

And people from the media – TV, radio, print – and their families got to taste the adventure one Sunday afternoon recently.

One was rock climbing.

They climbed an artificial wall called Rockreation. It is 36 feet high and touted to be the highest in Makati City. Designed for beginners and advanced climbers, 13 people could be accommodated at one time.

As many of them climbed for the first time, they were taught to *belay* and how to climb. The belayer's primary task is to tighten or loosen the rope clipped to the harness around the waist of the climber as the latter goes up the wall.

By their experience, it was learned that rock climbing is a sport that can be done by children as young as 5 to adults as old as 70. Also, one need not to be thin or physically fit to get started. What were needed were official rock climbing shoes, harness and chalk bag (to dry the hands). Done regularly, the person eventually becomes fit.

Another thrilling activity was jumping on the huge trampoline called Rebound.

Rebound is an innovative, safe way to have fun on a trampoline. There are four of these in Play Underground equipped with bungee cords clipped to the harness strapped around the person's waist.

Since they use bungee cords, participants were able to jump higher – as high as 30 feet – and do twists, turns and summersaults without fear of being thrown out of the trampoline. However, they found themselves sweating just jumping for a few seconds on the trampoline.

Finally, media participated in three team-building games, namely the Kaizen Card, Pipeline, and Paintball Team Challenge. In the latter, they experienced how to be engaged in a war complete with ammunition and battle gear – only the ammunition was paintball.

These games are just three of the many that could be held using the facilities at Play Underground for mallgoers and corporate clients by Management Strategies and Global Training Solutions, industry leaders in designing and implementing team development programs.

Serving food and drinks specialties to the media were some of Rockwell's cafes and restaurants such as Holland Sausage, Brother's Burger, Jamaican Patties, Fruits in Ice Cream, Buy the Bucket and Seattle's Best.

Mallgoers can look forward to participating in new and unique activities at Play Underground from time to time.

With all these happenings, Play Underground will surely become the new 'in' place to be among urbanites for a long time.

For inquiries and reservations, call 898-0273.

ST. JUDE VOLLEYBELLES IN BORACAY

St. Jude College recently went to Boracay to compete in the 6th Nestea Beach Volley University Championship. A first-time participant in the annual meet, St. Jude took second runner-up in the women's division, vying with more than a hundred schools from all over the country. Shown are the Thaddean tandem of Angie Adorable (left) and Kriza Cabanog holding their trophies alongside coaches Oliver Almadro (left) and Amor Bactat Jr. (right) and celebrity guest Chin Chin Gutierrez (center). St. Jude is currently holding tryouts for varsity/ scholars in men's and women's basketball and volleyball. St. Jude College is at Don Quijote Street in Sampaloc, Manila.

FLY ACE POWERS WINNERS

Mike Villanueva, Fly Ace Corp. marketing manager, hands out trophies and gift packages containing Jolly Cow Fresh Milk and Crumpy Breadspread to the four grand prize winners of the recently held 8th annual Kuwentong Kalikasan Katha ng Kabataan program of the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. They are (from left) Segment B-English winner Dominic Agustin Briguera, grade 6 student from Naga Central School II, Naga City, Segment A-English winner Gleson Madiano, grade 6 student from Bokod Central Elementary School, Benguet, Segment B-Filipino winner Jane Maureen Amata, grade 2 student from Botolan South Central School, and Segment A-Filipino winner Princess Morillo, grade 4 student of Baesa Elementary School, Caloocan City. Snacks made with Crumpy Breadspread and Jolly Cow milk were provided by Fly Ace as part of its support of the annual RCBC program which included a one-day art workshop for Metro Manila students.

BITS & Clips

Meditation class

WITH A modern Christian approach, the beginner's session will teach proper posture and breathing, and how to concentrate. The Saturday class is on June 29, 7:30 to 10 p.m. at Sikatuna Village, Quezon City. Reserve early through telephone numbers 925-2795, or e-mail amelia33@yehey.com. Instructor Amy P. Cavosora has theological education and Catholic charismatic experience. She is also a student of the psycho-spiritual teaching, "A Course in Miracles." One-on-one sessions for guided meditations and healing are given by appointment only.

Seminar on public governance

GOVERNMENT executives will have the chance to reexamine their values and skills as the Salamin ng Paglilingkod of the Career Executive Service Board is set from June 25 to July 4 at the Evercrest Golf Club and Resort in Nasugbu, Batangas. Salamin is the first of three courses of the Executive Leadership Program (ELP). It aims to give the participants the opportunity to reflect on their different roles in society and their responsibilities as leaders of the bureaucracy. As one of the modules, a barrio immersion in a depressed area will require participants to live for four days and three nights with foster families. For more information, call the CESB's placement, training, and career development service (PTCDS) at 951-4981 to 88, locals 108, 109 and 113, or visit www.cesboard.gov.ph.

Six treats, six stores at 36

IN ITS 36th year, our favorite bakeshop is giving us six special treats, plus six new stores for us to visit. Goldilocks Bakeshop indulges its loyal customers with six Bitbit packs of delectable goodies embracing valuable discounts. This promo lasts until Aug. 31. Meanwhile, Goldilocks Bakeshop has opened six more stores displaying the most recent store look. These "babies" are located in Los Banos in Laguna, Molino, Bacoor in Cavite, Las Pinas, Kamias in Quezon City, Metro Point Mall, Taft Avenue, and Robinsons Starmills, Pampanga.

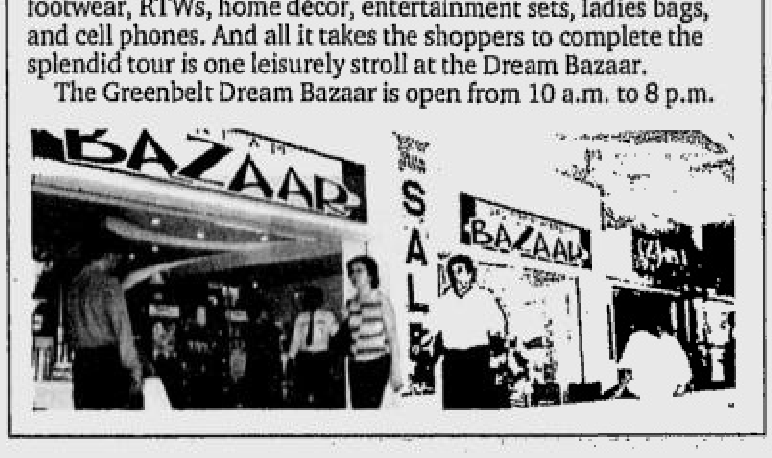
Product FILES

A dream bazaar in Greenbelt

LOOKING for some interesting bargain finds? Visit the Greenbelt Dream Bazaar at the Upper Ground Floor of the Greenbelt Shopping Plaza, between KFC and Chowking.

Office workers and home makers are in for a pleasant surprise as they are treated to many tempting deals, such as footwear, RTWs, home décor, entertainment sets, ladies bags, and cell phones. And all it takes the shoppers to complete the splendid tour is one leisurely stroll at the Dream Bazaar.

The Greenbelt Dream Bazaar is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.



BRATPACK
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BRATPACK STAFF GOES BACKPACKING

A training climb was recently organized by Bratpack to help its sales and office staff to become more effective, confident, and knowledgeable in selling outdoor equipment. Led by professional mountaineers from the Mapua Institute of Technology, University of the East, De La Salle University and Uniglobe Travelware brand manager Charles Lim, the activity also gave the staff an actual outdoor experience. Bratpack is a shop that specializes in the widest array of sports and outdoor equipment and the latest traveling and outdoor gear from the world's favorite brands. Bratpack stores are at the SM City Annex, Manila, Southmall, Davao, and Pampanga, Robinsons Galleria, Ermita and Bacolod.

MFI IT FACILITIES EXPANSION

Mayor Soledad Eusebio (second from right) of Pasig City was the guest of honor during the inauguration of Meralco Foundation Inc.'s (MFI) expansion of IT facilities held at the ground floor of MFI Building along Ortigas Avenue in Pasig. She is shown leading the ribbon-cutting ceremony assisted by MFI president Col. Alex T. Escano (third from left). Other MFI officials include (from left) Lolit Morales, VP for finance, Ma. Ester Fider, VP for organization, Winston Lim of Microsoft Press, and Marjorie Mendenilla, VP for technical education, MFI. MFI has been the training center of a number of IT partners like Macromedia, Thomson-Prometric, and Cisco.

PRESSCON: APRIL 18, 2002 THURSDAY 2:00 - 4:00 PM

KICK SAND LUZON AT SUBIC INTERNATIONAL

Subic International Hotel is the official accommodation of Kick Sand 2002, National Beach Football Tournament Luzon Leg. The contract was signed during the press conference held at the National Sports Grill at Greenbelt, Makati. Odette Aguilar, second from right, director of sales and marketing, and Cynthia Allegro extreme left, senior account manager, authorized the memorandum of agreement with Barbara Mojica (extreme right) and Dan Villa, the managing partners of Kick Sand 2002 co-organizer NET Effect. The Beach Football Association of the Philippines has been managing the Beach Football National Tournament for the 6th year with NET Effect as its marketing arm.

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RA Form No. 10.1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry
Province of Compostela Valley
Municipality of Monkayo

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that EUGENIO TAGANAS RACIONERO has filed with this office a petition for change of first name from "Geronimo Jr." to "Eugenio" in the birth certificate of Geronimo Taganas Racionero Jr. who was born on 08 January 1963 at Paslan, Monkayo, Davao and whose parents are Geronimo Daclan Racionero and Anita Taganas.

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this office not later than June 23, 2002.

(Sgd.) LOLITA C. CAÑEDA
Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI – June 24, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

DENTISTREE
Dental Board Review Center Rm 202 Philippine College of Surgeon Bldg., 992 Edsa Quezon City (SM City Annex) Tel. 926-4526 / 456-0590 Cel: 0919-4241156 Fax No. 927-1631 email: dentistree@i-manila.com.ph Enrollment Going On MWF August 12 - Nov.23, 2002

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late Eduardo M. Virgiño was extrajudicially settled with waiver of rights by his heirs consisting of MERALCO 3885 A Shares & 2585 B Shares Per Doc 87, Page 19, Book III, Series of 2002 Before Notary Public Maria Sarah R. Villanueva of Pasig City. (June 24, July 1, & 8 2002)

Notice is given that the estate of the late Eduardo M. Virgino was extrajudicially settled with waiver of rights by his heirs consisting of 'MESALA' Accout - Capital Contribution & Savings Deposit in the total amount of Php 174,428 23 more or less per Doc. 112, Page 24, Book III, Series of 2002 before Notary Public Rommel L. Yap of Pasig City (PDI-June 17, 24, July 1, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late ROSENDO A. GONZAGA has been extrajudicially settled by their heris per Doc#487, Page#98, Book#1, Series of 2002 of the Notarial Register of Atty. Edmundo Dantes M. Samson of Makati City. (PDI-June 24, July 1 & 8, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of ATTY. MARCIAL P. LAGUNZAD, JR was extrajudicially settled among his heirs per Notary Public Atty. Godofredo T. Liban II of Q.C. under Doc No. 262 ; Page No. 53 ; Book No. II Series of 2002. (PDI-June 24,July 1 &8,2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

That Equitable PCI Bank Stock Certificate No. 515-11shrs; 2683-100shrs 11460-53shrs; 12536-12 shrs; 15790-10 shrs; 17038-43 shrs; 2570-5 shrs; 8069-50shrs; 11461-24 shrs; 12537-5 shrs; 17039-19 shrs; 2571-5 shrs; 8070-50 shrs; 11462-24 shrs; 12538-5 shrs; 17040-19 shrs under the name of Rodolfo Granados was lost. If uncontested new cert. will be issued. (PDI-June 22,24&July 5,2002)

PERSONAL

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT From: Enrique Jr & Family

THANK YOU HOLY SPIRIT From: Gemma Santos & Family

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH
Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.
This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE
May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Pray for us.
St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.
Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.
Thank you very much. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

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The warmth of your touch may become cold
The memory of your constant love and guidance will forever be remembered

COL. PABLO BOTOR REGULLANO, JR. (RET.)

Of Lot II Block II Calendola Village, San Pedro, Laguna

Peacefully joined his Creator on Saturday, June 22, 2002
at the age of 60.

His loving wife **Tita**; children **Analyn & Jojo, Anna Mae, Olive, Anthony**; grandchild **Agatha**; beloved mother **Honorata**; brothers and sisters **Frances Dave**, **Mina**, **Joey**; brothers-in-law **Lito Fragata** and **Willy Mancita**; sisters-in-law **Baby** and **Elaine**; nephews and nieces, relatives and friends mourn his passing away and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Villamor Air Base Chapel, Pasay City. Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, June 27, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. at the Villamor Air Base Chapel, Pasay City.

Interment will follow at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

"...I am the Resurrection. If anyone believes in Me,
even though he dies, he will live, and whoever
lives and believes in Me will NEVER DIE..."
Jn 11:25-26

The Family of Beloved

JOSE GO UY (GO-NGA)

wishes to inform relatives and friends that he
passed away on June 20, 2002.

His body lies in state at Imperial Chapel,
La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 27, 2002,
9:00 A.M., Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

"Your goodness and unfailing kindness shall be with me all my life,
and afterwards I will live with you forever in your house."
Psalm 23:6

JACOBO "BING" BANZON TUAZON

Peacefully joined our Lord on June 22, 2002
at the age of 70.

His beloved wife **Myrna** (†); children **Dulce**, **Marcelina** (†), **Ma. Rose** and **Ariel Grajo**, **Dondi** and **Mabel**, **Merci** and **Lito Parcero**, **Pia**, **Lalli** and **Jojo Albarillo**, and **Aquin** and **Melody**; and grandchildren **Abi**, **Kolin**, **Krista**, **Keno**, **Angelo**, **Kaila**, **Myan**, **Giolo**, **Aba**, **Dado** and **Theresa** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Quezon City from June 22 to 25 and will be transferred to St. Raphael Parish Church, Legazpi City on June 26, 2002.

The Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated on June 29, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. at St. Raphael Parish Church after which interment will follow at the Bicol Memorial Park.

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death.
He will raise us to life with Jesus.
He will present us, along with you, to God."

RIZALINA FARIN TAEZA

of San Narciso, Zambales, Tayum, Abra and Aurora Province

Peacefully joined her Creator on June 22, 2002 at the age of 77.

His loving husband **Mariano Sr.** (†); children and children-in-law **Boy & Cita**; **Rowena & Ronnie**; **Nelen & Susan**, **Marie & Juanito**; **Edward & Emy**, **Annette & Mario**; **Rachel & Ogie**; grandchildren, brothers **Sergio & Gervacio Jr.**; sister **Gloria** (†); nephews and nieces, and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City until June 25, 2002.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 29, 2002 at Maria Aurora, Aurora Province.

REV. FR. ROBERT GONZALES TAYAO

Parish Priest
Our Lady of the Pillar Church
Diocese of Balanga

Peacefully joined his Creator
on June 22, 2002 at the age of 52.

His loving mother **Rosalia**; brothers and sisters **Ricardo Jr.**, & **Renato**, **Rebecca**, **Ramona**, **Ruth** & **Rizalina**; brother and sisters-in-law **Bob Baker**, **Patricia Cruz** & **Mabel Moranto**; nephew and nieces **Michael Noel**, **Carla** & **Celeste**; and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of Pillar Church in Pilar, Bataan.

Interment will be on Wednesday, June 26, 2002 at the Eternal Shrine, Balanga City, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Cathedral.

"An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one." 2 Corinthians 5:8

We Lovingly Remember

The First Death Anniversary of

Roylan Methodious A. Ibarra
Virginia F. Ibarra

who peacefully joined their Creator
on June 24, 2001

Please accept our deepest gratitude for all of you who were with us and offered prayers and condolence during our time of loss. We ask those of you whose lives they touched with their generosity for continued prayers.

From the family, relatives, and friends

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

ANTONIO SUPNET AZURIN

Died peacefully on June 22, 2002
at the age of 56.

His bereaved mother **VICENTE SUPNET VDA. AZURIN**; wife **SONIA**; children **BONGBONG**, **JUN & CECILLE**; sisters **CHING & JONG**; in-laws **BILL & BERT**; nephews **CHRIS**, **RJ**, **BJ**; and nieces **JJ & CORINNA**; request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

Three Years Ago Today

Our Beloved Mama

MARIA KOO TAN

Joined the Lord in Eternal Rest

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated in her memory and that of our Papa, **Salvador Tan Siong Chang**, at the Family Mausoleum, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat at 10:00 in the morning. Masses are also offered today at the following churches:

Santisimo Rosario, Blumentritt	6:00 PM
Catarman Cathedral, Catarman, Northern Samar	5:00 PM
Mary The Queen, Greenhills	6:00 PM
Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills	7:15 AM
St. Francis Church, Mandaluyong City	6:00 PM
Santisimo Rosario (UST), Manila	7:30 AM
Christ The King (Greenmeadows), Quezon City	6:00 AM
Shrine of Mary Queen of Peace, EDSA	6:00 PM
Chapel of Eucharistic Lord Chapel, Megamall	12:15 NN

Thank you, once again, for your prayers and well wishes.

Edward, Robert and Jenny, Ronnie and Marge, Renan and Iris
Alex and Milly, Stanley and Jen, Sandy and Steve
Eddie and Noah, Doy, Square and Candice
Aida and Albert (Simtoco), Arvin, Archie and Aris
Tommy and Marge, Bernice, Adrian and Melissa
Eday and Boy (Gustilo) and Gail
Nonoy and Grace, Trisha, Felicity, Valerie, Noynoy and Borgy
and great grandchildren

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Tels 740-2683 781-3708 781-3688, 413-8400; 716-5594
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#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels (047) 222-3805 (047) 811-1068; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road Makati City Tel 894-5032 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels 712-5102, 741-5125, 741-5133, Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels 2812963 2813034 2810522
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Tels (045) 888-2959 (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City, Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730

FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City, Tels 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila: Tels 642-3010; 633-3602
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
167 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas, Tels 873-0807; 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City, Tels 890-3556; 899-8191
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011
Tels. (044) 764-0281, 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite Tels (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila. Tels. 642-6161 to 62
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42, (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112
HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City, Tels 825-1298 825-1291
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Tel. 722-2730, Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City, Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila
Tels. 711-0931 to 35, 732-4795, 732-2827
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001, 743-6502 or 05
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
76 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City. Tel (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite
Tels. (046) 471-3306, (046) 471-4417, (046) 571-1978
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City, Tels. 895-1011 to 19

LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98, 941-3676, Telefax 941-3577
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal, Tels 645-1855 682-0209, 682-0210
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City
Tels. (075) 515-5960, 515-6529, 522-8783 (0919) 348-7131
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels 713-5231 to 35, 714-0867, 714-0868
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
214 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila. Tel Nos 254-0867, 254-0839
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St.,
Mandalagan, Bacolod City Tel 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City, Tels 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave. Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels 826-1376, 826-9682 (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City, Tel Nos 843-6838.30 Fax No 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City Telefax 724-4139, 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City Tels 852-0228, 852-7264
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-18 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tels 749-3679, 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
298 Quezon Ave., Quezon City Tels 372-5064 410-9286 87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels 831-3797 844-7848 843-1801 845-4838
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila. Tels 522-8846, 522-8439, 400-5394

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Budget and Management
Malacañang, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY, SHORT LISTING AND TO BID FOR THE GOVERNMENT ELECTRONIC PROCUREMENT SYSTEM (G-EPS) PROJECT

The Department of Budget and Management - Procurement Service ("DBM-PS") is conducting a public bidding of the Government Electronic Procurement System ("G-EPS") Project, to select a single Service Provider and technical partner for a period of FIVE (5) years to:

- provide an Internet-based G-EPS service to replace the existing Pilot EPS;
- roll out the required additional functionalities in manageable stages;
- supply related implementation and operational services; and
- provide technical planning and implementation services for other related applications

Interested parties may secure the Requirements for Eligibility and Short Listing for the Public Bidding of the G-EPS Project from:

THE SECRETARIAT
Inter-Agency Bids and Awards Committee ("IABAC")
Department of Budget and Management-Procurement Service
PS Conference Room, 2nd Floor
Madrigal Compound, RR Road, Cristobal Street
Paco, Manila
Philippines

Telefax No: (632) 563-9350
Contact Person: Ms. Rita P. De Castro
Head, IABAC Secretariat
Website: www.procurementservice.org

The said requirements shall be available at the above address during regular office hours, as well as at the above-indicated website until **JUNE 24, 2002 (Monday), 5:00 p.m.**

All responces to the Eligibility and Short Listing requirements must be submitted on or before **JULY 8, 2002 (Monday), at 10:00 a.m.** to the CHAIRMAN of the IABAC, at the above-mentioned address. Only parties who pass the Eligibility Check and are Short Listed shall participate in the actual public bidding for the G-EPS Project. Short Listed Prospective Proponents shall be notified accordingly, and they may purchase the Request for Proposals for the G-EPS Project upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (Php 25,000)

For Short Listed Prospective Proponents, the Pre-Bid Conference is on **AUGUST 5, 2002 (Monday), at 10:00 A.M.**, and the deadline for the submission and receipt of proposals shall be on **SEPTEMBER 16, 2002 (Monday), both at 10:00** a.m. at the above-mentioned address.

The Approved Budget for the Project is Two Hundred Fifty Million Philippine Pesos (Php 250,000,000) which shall be sourced from the funds of DBM-PS.

DBM-PS reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the Eligibility and Short Listing requirements and to this invitation. DBM-PS further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO P. OPIDA**
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI--June 16 & 24, 2002)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

ANNOUNCEMENT OF TENDER

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be conducting a sealed tender on **09 July 2002** instead of **04 July 2002** as previously announced in the June 18 publication at **2:00 PM** at the National Food Authority Boardroom, 10th Floor, 101 Matimyas Building, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City, among NFA accredited foreign government corporations/institutions and Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) accredited international traders/suppliers for the supply of minimum/maximum seventeen thousand forty three and 50/100 (17,043.50) MT raw and/or white cane refined sugar (fines) of any specific origin representing NFA's minimum access volume (MAV) allocation for the year 2002 under the following terms:

1. **SPECIFICATIONS**
   - A. **Raw Cane Sugar (VHP)** - Of fair average quality of the current crop in bulk with **Very High Polarisation (VHP) minimum of 98.50 degrees/maximum of 99.40 degrees** at the time of shipment and inspection at the loadport;
   - B. **White Cane Refined Sugar (fines)** - Minimum polarisation of 99.80 degrees, maximum color of 45 ICUMSA units and maximum moisture content of 0.06% in 50 kg bags;
2. **ARRIVAL PERIOD IN BATANGAS**

VARIETY	NOT LATER THAN AUGUST 31 (MT, Minimum/Maximum)
A. Raw Cane Sugar .	17,043.50
B. White Cane Refined (fines)	17,043.50

3. **PRICE OFFER**

Interested offerors are required to submit price offers for raw and/or white cane refined (fines) sugar as per arrival schedule from any specific origin which must be quoted in US$/MT, CFR, FO, based on the following modes of payment:

1. Irrevocable at sight Letter of Credit
2. Irrevocable usance Letter of Credit, 180 days after B/L date

Except for foreign government suppliers who are personally submitting their bid/offer, all interested SRA bidders including appointed local representative/s who are making an offer on behalf of an accredited foreign government supplier/s, are required to submit a bid bond equivalent to 10% of the total offered price in the form of cash, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, demand draft in USD issued/drawn from a reputable bank in Metro Manila or an Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit issued by a reputable bank domiciled in the Philippines valid for 120 days from date of bidding.

Submission of the offer together with the bid bond will be between 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM on the tender date.

Opening of offers will start exactly at **2:00 PM**. Only those approved and invited by the Bidding Committee for the supply of raw and/or refined sugar based on the list of NFA accredited foreign government corporations and international traders/suppliers accredited by the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) are invited to submit sealed tenders.

The pre-bidding conference will be held on **02 July 2002** at **2:00 PM** at the NFA Boardroom.

Interested bidders may secure the terms and conditions starting **26 June 2002 (8:00 AM - 6:00 PM)** from the **Foreign Operations Division, Directorate for Marketing Operations, 5th Floor, NFA, Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City** with telephone numbers **743-8696, 712-1928, 712-1572, 712-1564** and **711-7433.**

Bidding documents will be available on **02 July 2002** right after the pre-bidding conference to qualified bidders/offerors upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,000.00.

In case of failure a **pre-rebidding/rebidding** will be conducted on **12 July 2002** and **16 July 2002** respectively, at **2:00 PM**, at the NFA Boardroom.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any required formality or defect therein and may accept the bid which is deemed most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **VICENTE V. RACHO**
Chairman, Pre-qualification,
Bids and Award Committee

(PDI – June 18 & 24, 2002)

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
Port Management Office - Iloilo

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY/APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Ports Authority through the Port Management Office, Iloilo invites interested bidders to submit Application to Pre-qualify/apply for eligibility, and subsequently to bid, if pre-qualified for the:

A. Name of Project: RE-ROOFING OF CONTAINER FREIGHT STATION INCLUDING PAINTING OF STRUCTURAL FRAMING ICPC, ILOILO CITY

B. Scope of Work
1.0 Mobilization/Demobilization
2.0 Removal/Disposal of Corroded GI Roofing etc.
3.0 Surface Preparation of Structural Steel Framings
4.0 Repainting of Structural Steel Framings
2.0 Reinstallation of Color bonded Roofing and Access

C. Mis. Equip. Requirements

1.0	1-unit	10-Wheeler Hauling Truck	Owned/Lease
2.0	6-units	Electric Drill w/ Adaptor	Owned/Lease
3.0	1-unit	Scaffoldings and Safety Equipment	Owned/Lease
4.0	1-unit	Assorted Hand tools and Accessories	Owned/Lease

D. Budget for the Contract: P 8,406,767.40
Source of Funding: Repair and Maintenance

E. Required PCAB Registration & Classification: Medium "B" Building and Industrial Plant

F. Time, Date and Place of Pre-Bid Conference, Dropping and Opening of Bids:
Pre-Bid Conference: July 3, 2002; 9:30 A.M. Conference Room, Admin. Bldg., ICPC, Iloilo City
Opening of Bids: July 17, 2002 9:30 A.M. Conference Room, Admin. Bldg., ICPC, Iloilo City

Pre-C form shall be made available at the BAC Secretariat, Engineering Services Division, PPA-PMO-Iloilo, Admin. Bldg., Bo. Obrero, Iloilo City, starting **June 19-25, 2002** upon payment of non-refundable amount of P200.00.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished pre-qualification statement shall not be later than **June 26, 2002, 5:00 P.M.** in duplicate copies.

Bid documents shall be issued only to pre-qualified contractors starting **June 26-July 3, 2002** upon payment of non-refundable cost of P350.00.

For particulars relative to pre-qualification, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of Contract shall be governed by the Provision of PD 1594 and its implementing Rules and Regulation as amended last May 24, and July 5, 2000.

The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in the proposals received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the Philippine Ports Authority.

(Sgd.) **CHRISTIAN V. SANTILLAN**
Port Manager

(PDI--June 24, 2002)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF STA. LUCIA (Ilocos Sur), CORP. (RBSLC)

1. The PDIC shall start claims settlement operations in the closed Rural Bank of Sta. Lucia (Ilocos Sur), Corp. for the insured deposits with balances over P10,000.00 up to the statutory limit of P100,000.00 per depositor and resume receiving/processing claims for those with balances of P10,000.00 and below.
2. Depositors of RB Sta. Lucia, Corp. - Head Office and Sta. Cruz Branch are requested to proceed directly to RB Sta. Lucia (Ilocos Sur), Corp - Head Office located along National Road, Brgy. Barangobong, Sta. Lucia, Ilocos Sur from June 25 to July 16, 2002, Mondays thru Fridays, during office hours, where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

   After July 16, 2002, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by mail addressed to:

   The Manager
   Claims Processing Department
   Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
   2228 Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City
3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims for insured deposits:
   - a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   - b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) bearing the depositor's specimen signature.

   Other documents may be required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Sta. Lucia (Ilocos Sur) Corp. is on **October 28, 2003.** After **October 28, 2003**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI - June 24, 2002)

Globe
HANDYPHONE
GLOBE TELECOM
0000012345
01004 125-3
Date May 2002
Pay to the Order of LARRY GALAPIR INES
P 500,000.00
Pesos FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS
TXTRS 5

CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER WINS P.5M

27-year-old Larry Galapir Ines could not believe all the good breaks he has been getting. He enjoys his job as project engineer in a construction company in Quezon City, where he has been working for the last five years. And on May 13, this Ilocos Norte native had another reason to celebrate. Larry became richer by P500,000 when he won by joining the Missing Lyric interactive texting game of TXTRS 5, Globe Handyphone and GMA-7's hottest and most exciting game show. The P500,000 check was presented to Larry by Bubbles Barretto of Globe Telecom's corporate marketing group during ceremonies held at the Globe Telecom Plaza in Mandaluyong City.

Thai massage seminar at TLRC

THE TECHNOLOGY and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC) will hold s seminar on Traditional Thai Massage (Nua Bo-Ram) on June 27 and 28, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Resource person is Leo Espinosa, a college instructor in physical therapy, physiology and related subjects. As a therapeutic modality, Thai Massage combines deep stretching and a system of slow, rhythmic compression using the palm, thumb, elbow, soles of the feet and knee to promote health and wellness. Thai Massage is claimed to reduce pain, swelling and edema, increase the range of motion and remedy many kinds of soft tissue related disorders. For details, call TLRC at 633-5709 or 633-6728, or visit Unit 805, 8th floor CityState Centre Building, 709 Shaw Boulevard (near the Rizal Provincial Capitol), Pasig City.

BITS Clips

Regada celebrates water

SINCE 1996, Cavite City's party-loving people have successfully combined love for water and celebrations. The event has been coined Regada, which was derived from the Spanish word "regar"—to water or sprinkle. Held yearly from June 21 to 24, the celebrations are full of culture and plain old fun. The theme, of course, is water. This year's highlights have included an on-the-spot watercolor painting contest, a shoreline cleanup and tree planting, Palaro sa Dagat, a "tahong" festival, Sunduan, and Basayawan sa Kalye. Today, June 24, the Palaro sa Paulan, the wet party Tugtugan sa Paulan, and Karakol ni San Juan Bautista, shall be held. For details, call Dr. Ramil Badajos at 046-4312429 or Amy Custodio at 046-4311655.

TNT Express rewards clients

TNT EXPRESS Worldwide (Phils.) Inc., a global express distribution and business logistics solutions company, has launched its Premium Campaign 2002 rewards promotion in recognition of the strong support the company has received from its clients throughout the Philippines. The rewards program earns clients points by utilizing TNT's 9 a.m. Express, Noon Express, Economy Express, Mabuhay Express, Priority and Special Services for documents and parcel. Points are determined by each client's weekly number of consignments. Clients can then exchange earned points towards great prizes. The Premium 2002 rewards promotion will run until March 31, 2003. TNT Express Worldwide (Phils.) is located at Pair Pags Cargo Center, Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Pasay City with telephone numbers 551-0918.

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Dr. Funk, Roswell Rayguns take on '75's best ballers

THE YEAR: 1975. It was the best of times; it was the funkiest of times. America played with pet rocks and drove the AMC Pacer. Leisure suits and big 'fros roamed the earth. And an upstart professional basketball league called the ABA hit the scene.

Funk defined the American Basketball Association, a crazy league of tight uniforms, red-white-and-blue basketballs and hoop moves that put the F-U-N in funk. It was the Iceman and a high school kid named Moses. It was the high-arc three-point shot and wicked dunks, outrageous fashion and an individual style that thumbed its nose at the starchinesss of the more established professional basketball league.

But some of today's young and exciting NBA stars, full of their own game, style and hoop showmanship, would feel the right at home playing in the glory days of the ABA. And viewers saw that themselves as Nike unearthed more rare roundball footage in the new ad, "Roswell Rayguns," which debuted nationally last May 24.

The hapless Roswell Rayguns, a sad-sack New Mexico ABA team, "made a few changes," according to their screamingly plaid-jacketed coach. He enlists the aid of Dr. Funk (a.k.a. Vince Carter) spotted recently in Nike's "Rucker Park" footage, which features the lost Harlem film of the famed hoop playground.

Dr. Funk and his all-star teammates Paul Pierce, Baron Davis, Jermaine O'Neal and Jerry Stackhouse mix it up against some of the ABA's best in vintage footage that follows the team's romp through the ABA playoffs. Along the way, they get a little nasty musical help form funk's master blaster, Bootsy Collins.

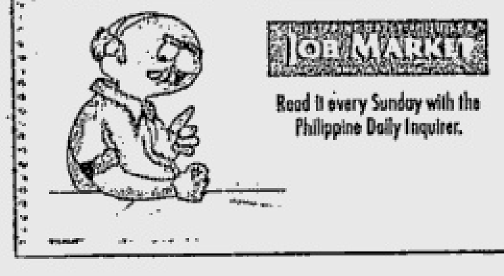
Created by Nike's long-time and award-winning advertising agency Wieden+Kennedy (Portland), "Roswell Rayguns" features state-of-the-art visual wizardry that creates a world where some of the hottest talent in the NBA today can take on the best of the ABA from yesteryear. Both 60 and 30 second versions of the ad will air.

This may well be the funkiest team in the funkiest era of the game. Who's got the most game? Can today's NBA stars match the wicked spontaneity, hardwood creativity and hoop shine of the ABA's heyday? Fans can decide for themselves, and enjoy more of the funky hoops experience, including an online version of the ad, by visiting www.nikebasketball.com

Carter takes the floor in his signature shoe, the Nike Shox VC, available for the first time in silver. With the Nike Shox technology acting as both springs and shock absorbers for the feet, the Dr. Funk's superstar court presence is redefined in the Nike Shox VC. A mesh upper with injected cage and a speed sock that wraps around the foot combine for extreme support and stability, while an innovative stretch shroud marries function with fashion by keeping the show stealthy and adding an ultra sleek look. The Nike Shox VC is currently available in retail outlets across the Philippines for a recommended retail price of P8,095.

His Raygun teammates don the Nike Shox Stunner, a new generation of Nike Shox. It's the future of high-performance, cutting-edge hoop footwear. The innovative design propels the game's best players to the highest level of explosiveness, ride and quickness. It's a lightweight synthetic leather shoe with a Lycra spandex, ultra-comfortable dynamic-fit sleeve, and a TPU stretch cage for medial and lateral support. It offers a fully integrated ankle support strap with a medial-side-anti-inversion structure, a lightweight Phylon midsole that houses the exposed Nike Shox heel cushioning unit and a forefoot Zoom Air Unit, and a solid rubber outsole. It hit retail last April with the white-mid navy colorway. The second colorway (black-metallic silver) was released last May. Both are available for a recommended retail price of P6,995.

Nike Inc., headquartered in Beaverton, Oregon, markets its products in more than 100 countries and is the world's leading sports and fitness company.


JOB MARKET
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.
Opportunity knocks but once.

HP, Intel pledge more support for gov't

By Joel D. Pinaroc

TECHNOLOGY companies Intel Corp. and Hewlett-Packard will be giving more support for the Philippine government in its efforts to spread the use of IT in governance and in education, local executives of the two companies announced Thursday.

The two companies, through various IT-related programs, are set to beef up support for the government, which still faces the daunting task of how to "computerize" hundreds of national and regional government agencies, as well as municipalities, cities and state-run learning institutions, across the archipelago.

Nilo Cruz, newly appointed country manager of the new HP, said the company will continue donating personal computers to the government. Cruz said, however, that the level of awareness and usage of computers still need to be thoroughly addressed to maximize the use of IT in governance.

"We see some government executives not even using some high-end PCs. While HP will continue donating PCs to the government, the need to increase the knowledge of government executives on how to use IT still needs to be addressed," Cruz said.

For its part, microchip manufacturer Intel Corp. will continue to work with lead government agencies such as the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Education for various research-related programs, according to Rosario Ventura, Intel's public relations manager in the Asia Pacific.

Ventura noted that Intel has been successful in rolling out programs such as the Intel Science and Engineering Fair, which the country has actively participated in. The ISEF is an event that pits local students and teachers against their global counterparts. So far, Ventura said, delegates from the Philippines have been winning awards at the annual event held in the United States.

Funding for the said projects will also continue, Ventura said, adding that the $1 million fund allocation of Intel to the ISEF is expected to continue.

"Alongside these science and technology programs, Intel will also continue its community enhancement programs," Ventura said. Intel currently has several fabrication plants in Cavite, which currently employ thousands of local residents.

Both Intel and HP also gave their commitment to the National Computer Center, the lead agency which oversees the computerization efforts of the government.

According to NCC director general Dr. Delfin Sabido, the government needs to tap the private sector if it wants to fulfill its dreams of automating the government to curb the bureaucracy and improve public service by being more efficient.

"The NCC will be deploying several strategies. One of which is to forge more government and private sector alliances, as well as deploy the distance learning model for government executives," Sabido said.

The commitment of Intel, HP and other private firms is necessary, said Sabido, in order for the government to fulfill its long-standing plan to computerize its operations nationwide.

THE BOTTOM LINE

Matrox Millennium G550

By Jerry Liao

THIS week, let's take a look at the Matrox Millennium G550 video card.

Strengths

1) Dual head display capabilities, which allow you to connect two displays like a TV and a monitor to the same video card for a larger desktop or two screens (2048x1536 in 32-bit color on the primary display and 1600x1200 on the second display).

2) Powered by 360 Mhz RAMDAC with 32 Mb of DDR memory.

3) HeadCasting Engine which will allow for high-resolution 3D renderings of people's faces over even a 56 Kb modem. Good for online communication and remote presentations.

4) High quality DVD/video playback with DVDMax

Weaknesses

1) Not a competitive 3D graphics product. More for business than gaming. Suited for software and web developers, desktop publishers and digital content creators.

The bottom line

As a business and home solution, this video card has it all. But if you're looking more at the 3D environment such as high-graphics games, I think the Matrox Parhelia would be more appropriate.

For more reviews on the latest gadgets and gizmos, visit www.infochat.com.ph. Want us to review a product? Send e-mail to infochat@mozcom.com with the subject heading: "The Bottom line."

Star Wars Rogue Leader: Rogue Squadron II

From page B20

appear from your screen as the roaring sound goes around you and behind you then back in front in time to see the Tie crossing your TV screen again. This was simply awesome when I tried it out on a surround-sound system on Prologic mode. This is just the start of a game that keeps your ears satisfied from start to finish—the audio complements the game's action in terms of speed, intensity and excitement. The game holds true to the classic Star Wars, very faithful with the same soundtrack, the same themes and even the same movie clips.

Gameplay in Rogue Leader is fun, frenzied and straightforward. You get to fly as either Luke Skywalker or Wedge Antilles (the game even features the voice of Denis Lawson, the guy who played Wedge in "Star Wars") and fulfill your childhood dream of flying an X-Wing, a B-Wing, a Y-Wing or a snow speeder (the Naboo Fighter, Millennium Falcon and the Tie Fighter are unlockable ships). You can play in cockpit view (first person) or the chase camera (third person), whichever is more comfortable in blasting enemies. All you have to do is listen to the mission objectives at the start of each level (this is important since most of the clues to completing the mission are stated at the beginning, so don't skip this part just to jump straight into the action), complete your objective, blow the bad guys out of space, earn medals and points after completing each mission and move on to the next mission. Each of the 11 missions in the game is unlocked one after another, but for a start you only have two levels available: Tatooine Training and Death Star Attack. After each mission you are awarded with a medal and corresponding points, based on your shot accuracy, enemies destroyed, the completion time and friendly forces lost.

In Tatooine Training, you learn the basics and controls of the game. In the Death Star Attack, you get to fly the X-Wing. In this level, the game becomes exciting right away. This mission is composed of three phases. First, destroy the deflection towers; second, engage the Tie Fighters in a dog fight; and third, do the trench run while Ties and Darth Vader are trying to blast your ass into space. This is where I recommend you use original GameCube controllers instead of crappy third-party ones. In Rogue Leader, you need precision, and crappy controllers won't do.

There's nothing like in-your-face action with Tie fighters, The dog fight is just exhilarating, complete with the roar of the Tie Fighters as they whiz past your cockpit just inches away. After you get rid of the Ties, you're gonna go into the trench and try to blow the Death Star's gonads out of the galaxy using your proton torpedoes. This has all the bells and whistles in it—from Alec Guiness' echoing, gentle reminder to "use the force, Luke" to Vader's "the force is strong with this one" which ominously reverberates as Darth's Tie Advanced starts firing at your pancreas, and then Han Solo saves the day as the Millennium Falcon blasts the Ties behind you. You know you're safe once you hear Han say: "Yahoo! You're all clear kid, now let's blow this thing and go home!"

The point here is that the game dishes out a good serving of familiar music, images, movie clips and lines from the classic movie (the original one, mind you, not any of that Episode 1 or 2 crap).

DARTH and other baddies on their Tie Fighters are gonna try to blow your gonads out of the galaxy as you do the trench run and try to make space junk out of the Death Star.

At the Ison Corridor Ambush, you get to use all the available ships in the hangar, that is, if you unlock the Millennium Falcon. While you're selecting your craft, take some time to watch how silly the way Luke or Wedge runs around the hangar as you control him. He looks like a baby with diarrhea running around with a fully loaded diaper. In this level, the rebel supply convoy is now moving to the Planet Hoth, and you have to defend the supply ships as they are ambushed on their way there. You have to keep the Frigate Redemption intact. This is also the first point where you change ships during missions. In my case I was using the Falcon, but the mission required a faster ship, so I had to switch to the A-Wing. You have to go back to Frigate Redemption to do this, but the friggin' frigate was nowhere in sight. This is because this mission is in deep space, with space debris, nebula and just the stars in front, below and above you—your orientation goes haywire since you don't see any horizon. Although your 3D radar display shows where enemies are, it's still difficult, even when you're on auto roll or auto level (features which, when set on automatic, reorients the ship to the horizon or levels it when you let go of the stick).

NINTENDO GAMECUBE

We review this game on the GameCube

Next, you go to the Battle of Hoth where using your communications display becomes key. You have to order your wingmen to attack AT-ATs and AT-STs to help you out. This level is pretty exciting since you get to fire tow cables and wrap them around the legs of those big AT-AT walkers to bring them down, just like the ice planet Hoth in "Empire Strikes Back." You get to do this again later on the Vengeance on Kothlis where you switch ships in favor of speeders (which have the tow cables).

I didn't like the action in the next two levels that much. These are Prisons of the Maw (no, as much as this level sounds like it, this is not the last stage of Halo), and the Razor Rendezvous.

In the Vengeance on Kothlis, you get to cripple AT-ATs again with the tow cable. It's also back to the dogfight between Ties and the X-Wing, but this one is more exciting since the Ties are gonna be tailing you tight, so if by this level you still don't know how to make quick turns and rolls, you're gonna be an ex-X-Wing pilot.

The Imperial Academy Heist is more about stealth this time. You fly your speeder low to avoid several sensors, land the speeder and steal the imperial shuttle. Piece of cake. Next you're off to the Raid on Bespin, where Lando Calrissian helps the rebels secure fuel in Cloud City. This has to be the most visually stunning part of the game.

In the Battle of Endor, you follow Lando into the Death Star right after Han Solo's strike team disables the shield from Endor. Here, you destroy the main Death Star reactor (again!), but not before you get rid of Tie Fighters which are after the medical frigate. This one's the hardest dogfight in the game, and the Ties are gonna be all over the place, so protect that friggin' frigate!

In the final stage, the Strike at the Core, Wedge flies the X-Wing again. You have to cover Lando's back as he flies the Falcon. He dies, you die too. You skim the Death Star's surface, take out the Ties behind Lando while trying to lose the ones on your tail, find the power core entry, go inside, find the generator and destroy it.

Kaboom! Good night Vader, Luke and Wedge have left the building!

All in all, this is a good game which puts you in the seat of your favorite star fighter. It brings back memories of the action of the original Star Wars series with none of that prequel crap. The action brings you back to the original Star Wars before George Lucas lost his touch in Episodes 1 and 2. This is probably what draws people to this game.

Electronic Gaming Monthly voted this game No. 1 among the GameCube games, but that was before "Resident Evil" came out. "Star Wars Rogue Leader: Rogue Squadron II" is still a good game, but most of the time you have to repeat levels because your mission is unclear, you don't know who to save or what to destroy, and sometimes you spend half the allotted time just figuring out which way is up, which way is left and which way leads to the dressing room of Natalie Portman. That's how disorienting some of the levels can be. Sometimes you can't figure out which weapon to use or how to use them, like the tow cables used to trip AT-ATs.

EGM says Rogue Squadron II is the best Star Wars game out there. Since I've never beaten any other Star Wars game yet on other platforms, I'll just rate this one based on a singular experience. This game is good but it's not exactly my cup of tea. I give it an 8.5 on the Thrill-O-Meter.

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INFOTECH

Editor **Leo Magno**

ePLDT prepares for worse amid Gokongwei takeover

By Joel D. Pinaroc

THE INFORMATION technology arm of dominant communications carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. is expected to remain an independent entity in the event of a successful takeover bid of the Gokongwei group. However, company officials of ePLDT admit that manpower reductions may occur even as they are "preparing for the worse."

The Gokongwei group recently tendered a $925-million bid to take a controlling stake at PLDT.

According to Emmanuel Dizon, vice president and chief technology officer of ePLDT, the carrier's IT division, it is "business as usual" amid the ongoing takeover battles which has PLDT head honcho Manuel Pangilinan on one side and taipan John Gokongwei on the other.

Dizon said that while employees of ePLDT are expecting the worse, those belonging to the lower rung of the corporate ladder are seen to be the most affected, as cost-cutting measures are expected to be implemented if the takeover bid becomes successful and is consummated.

"It is but normal for employees to feel that once the takeover bid becomes successful, some would eventually lose their jobs," Dizon said.

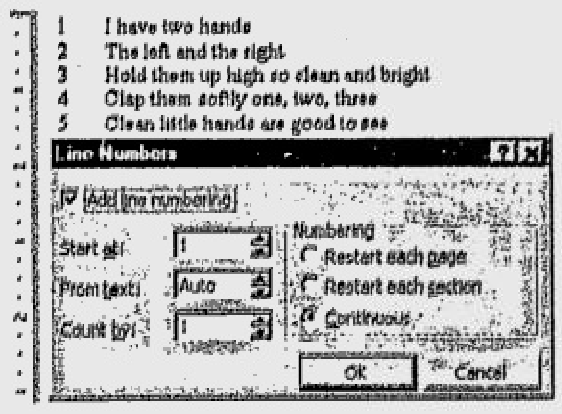
He stressed, however, that ePLDT—being one of the major divisions involved in all the Internet- and IT-related business of the country's largest telecommunications company—is not in danger of being "replaced" or "phased out."

ePLDT, among its other businesses, is also the carrier's Internet data center service hub. The company has been in operations for two years now, and is backed by a P1.6-billion investment by PLDT and its partners.

Earlier, Ariel Roda, chief executive officer of ePLDT, said that he is confident ePLDT will "remain in operation," even if the takeover bid becomes successful.

Roda said that ePLDT is totally independent, having its own target revenues and revenue streams. He also added that the Gokongwei group has no Internet data center business at the moment.

How to add line numbers in MS Word



1 I have two hands
2 The left and the right
3 Hold them up high so clean and bright
4 Clap them softly one, two, three
5 Clean little hands are good to see

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By Jerry Liao

POWERTIPS

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For more tips, visit http://www.brainshare.com.ph.

STAR WARS
ROGUE LEADER
ROGUE SQUADRON II

By Leo Magno

LUCASARTS Entertainment and Factor 5's "Star Wars Rogue Leader: Rogue Squadron II" was named by many magazines in November last year as the best launch title for the Nintendo GameCube. A lot of people have played this game already, better GameCube games have been released since November, and people have already seen the crappy "Episode II: Attack of the Clones." So let's just get this game review out of the way before George Lucas starts filming Episode III and ruins his legacy further.

Unlike the Star Wars prequels, Rogue Leader has good news going for it. Factor 5 has built the game around 5-channel Dolby Pro Logic II and has treated the game like a DVD-movie. It has a cool menu with lots of extras, just like a DVD. One cool extra is the surround-sound test where a Tie Fighter would roar across the screen from right to left, dis-

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Canon
Technology that makes you smile

HP-Compaq merger seen finished by July; job cuts seen in RP

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

HEWLETT-Packard expects to complete its merger with Compaq in the first week of July, Philippine company officials said Friday.

Nilo Cruz, Philippine country manager of the new HP, said that starting July, his work of integrating the two separate operations of Compaq and HP would end.

"We're about 85 percent finished. Around 10 to 20 percent of the employees working for the local operations would be let go," said Cruz.

Admitting to be under a lot of pressure—being responsible in choosing who stays and who goes—Cruz said that the job cuts for the year will be a gradual process.

HP announced last week that it will cut 10,000 jobs worldwide this year and 5,000 jobs next year. It also said that some people working under contract with HP would not be renewed.

Prior to the announcement of the merger and even during the integration of the two local subsidiaries, some people have left or have joined other companies.

Cruz said that the challenge following the merger is to retrain its partners on the new products of the company.

"There are some products that were announced that would be phased out," he added, noting that this might cause some confusion among customers.

The executive said that the merger's speed of execution has impressed him. In two months, he was expected to have completed his job. Each country operation was given detailed plans on how to execute integration plans.

"After five weeks of integrating both operations, I have seen the wisdom behind the merger," he added.

The two companies' past experience in mergers with or acquisitions of other companies has somehow helped HP plan well for the industry's biggest marriage of computer giants. Previously, Compaq merged with Digital Equipment Corp., while HP acquired Tandem Computers.

Cruz said that personally he has finally felt more relaxed as the end of the integration nears. The executive says he has been working 12 hours a day since the local announcement of the merger on May 8. Cruz said he even missed the funeral of his eldest brother who died recently outside the country.

"But I'm happy now that my employees are less tense," he said.

Cruz admitted that even he is not sure of what the future holds for him at the new HP. He said he has prepared four boxes in case he was asked to resign.

Cebu Pacific taps SAP

By Raul C. Dancel

CEBU Pacific has re-implemented a data processing system to integrate and streamline its domestic and international operations.

"Adopting an automated, integrated backroom system like SAP sustains Cebu Pacific's steady expansion in terms of data coordination among different departments and efficiency in internal processes and procedures," Cebu Pacific information technology director Issa Isaac said.

German-born IT business process solutions company SAP puts together the airline's operations, including corporate planning, maintenance and engineering, logistics and finances to speed up internal processes.

Isaac said the re-implementation of the system takes into account Cebu Pacific's international operations launched in November 2001.

SAP provides Cebu Pacific in-depth analyses of its flights according to routes and destinations. It provides data on maintenance, inventory and procurement requirements of the airline's Boeing 757 aircraft being used for its regional operations. The new system also integrates human resource management under mySAP HR.

Isaac said SAP "has proven to be a valuable tool in day-to-day HR management, as it synthesizes human resource functions with a global scope."

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What you don't know about Lucio Tan

TAIPAN Lucio C. Tan is many things to different people. Others see him as a philanthropist, giving away millions of pesos to help build schools, while others see him as an alleged tax evader.

There are those who consider him a patron of the sports, while others see his tobacco and beer companies as purveyors of "sinful" products. He is perceived as a large contributor to the Catholic Church, while others only see his checkered past.

He may be all these and more, but there is one uncontestable truth—Lucio C. Tan is a self-made man who rose above his humble beginnings to single-handedly build a flourishing business empire over the last 50 years from scratch, and providing thousands of Filipinos jobs in the process.

But as big as his empire has become, Lucio Tan remains a very private individual, rarely interviewed and photographed even if almost every household in the Philippines knows his name.

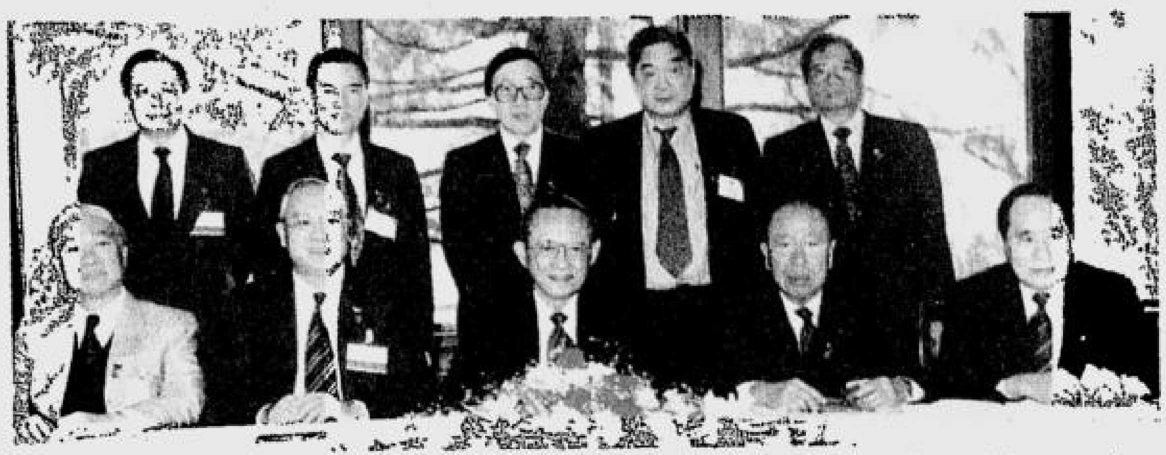
Business Monday, thus, will feature here some little known anecdotes about Tan based on a book published by Xinhua Publishing House in Beijing, China last year. The book was produced last year to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Lucio Tan group of companies.

The tobacco and beer magnate is known as a dutiful son, with deep feelings toward his parents. When his father passed away in 1993, Tan's mother also fell ill. He always took the time to be with her every chance he got, despite his busy work schedule.

The book says he would hold her hands and together they would recite Zhuge Liang's famous work "Tribute to The King on Dispatching Troops," which she first taught him when he was young.

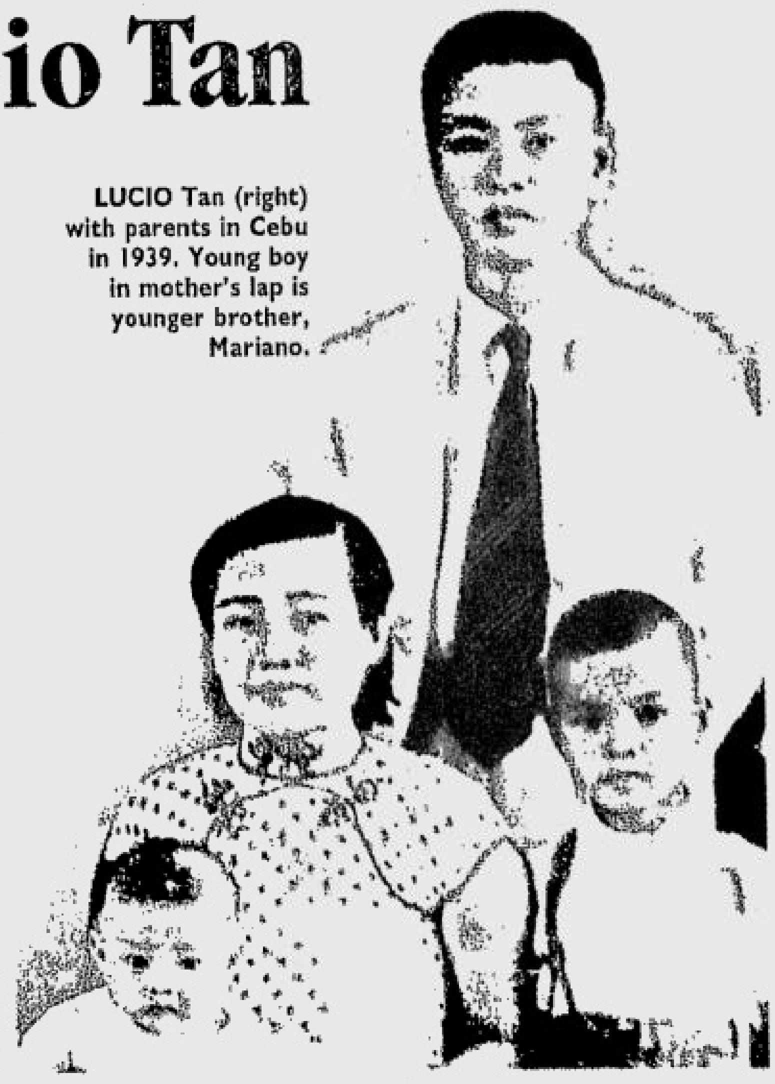
Tan has six brothers and sisters and as the eldest, he became their surrogate father when their father passed away in 1993. All his brothers were given key positions in the conglomerate, including his brothers-in-law.

WHAT/ C2

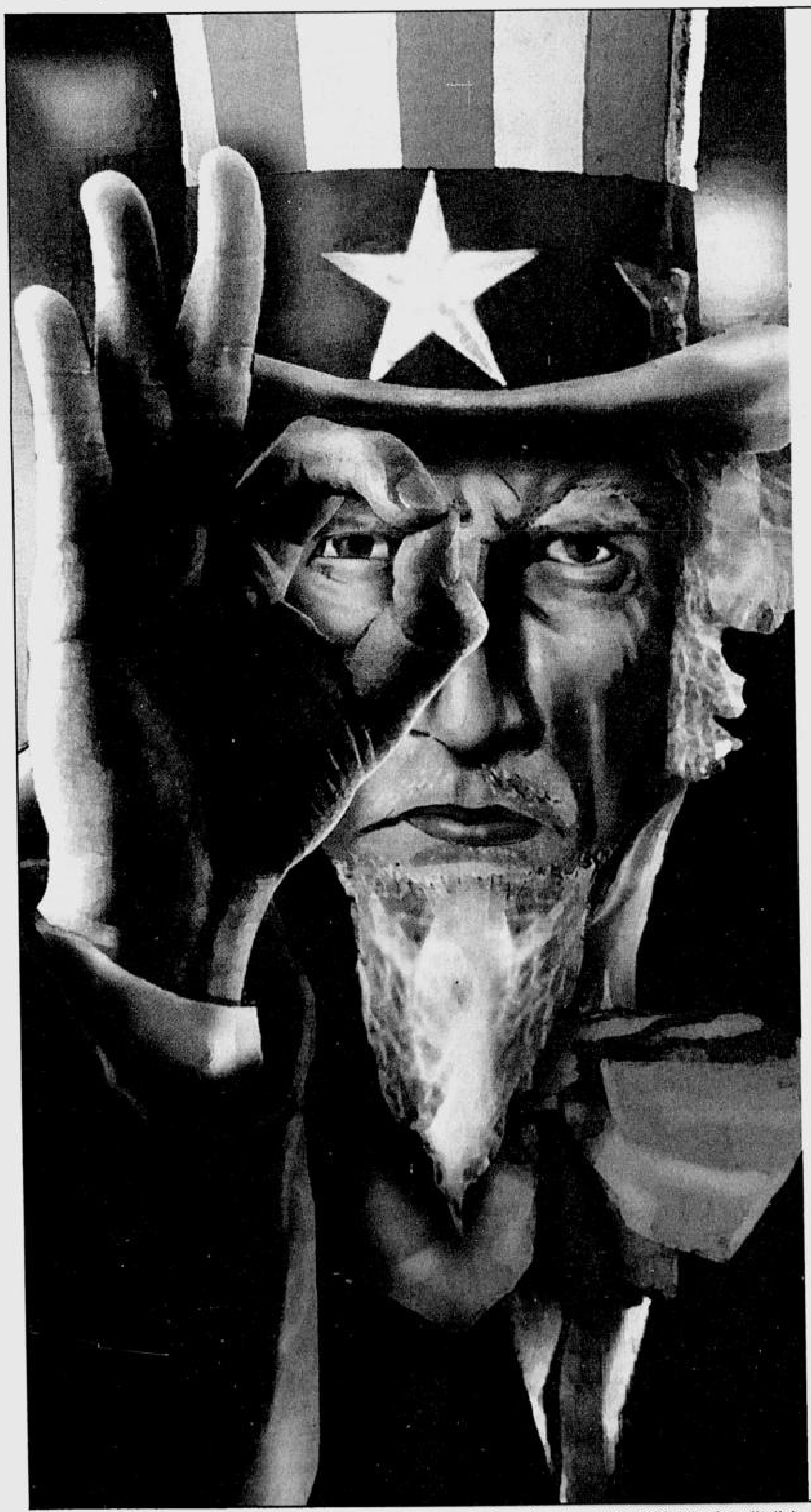


FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos with six Chinese-Filipino taipans in 1993: (seated, front row), Andrew Gotianun (extreme left); Alfonso Yuchengco (second from right) and Henry Sy (extreme right). Standing are Mr. Tan (second from left); George S.K. Ty (third from left) and John Gokongwei (second from right).

PHOTOS FROM LUCIO C. TAN, XINHUA PUBLISHING HOUSE



LUCIO Tan (right) with parents in Cebu in 1939. Young boy in mother's lap is younger brother, Mariano.



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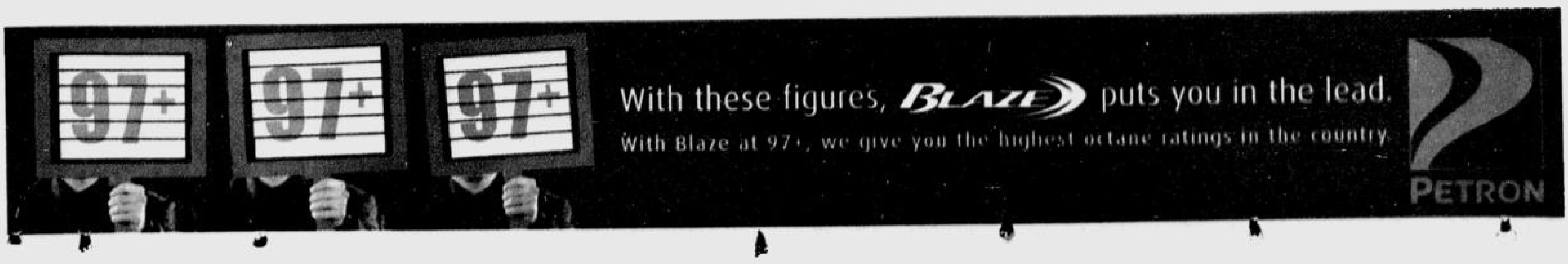

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What you don't know about Lucio Tan

From page C1

The taipan also became known for using a helicopter almost every day to take him from his house in Manila to his various offices in Luzon. He bought his first helicopter in 1968 to save time and beat the traffic jam. He was only one of a handful of Asian entrepreneurs who had their own helicopters.

Executives like him would be expected to carry the latest electronic gadget to organize their schedules like a Palm Pilot or a handheld computer. Lucio Tan owned neither. Instead, he writes his notes on a piece of yellow paper folded into a square that he carries in his pocket.

The book says the role of the small piece of paper has become legend. As the story goes, Tan keeps a yellow and red notepad. The yellow one is for important matters, the red for minor things. Learning about this, some visitors became very nervous as they wonder which pad Tan will use while writing down his meetings with them.

Tan has retained his simple ways despite his immense wealth. It is said that when he is late for his meals, his employees would bring him his favorite food—cake slices or ice cream made of taro.

He has also kept in touch with his classmates from the Philippine Chiang Kai Shek High School. During most Sunday nights, Tan's former classmates would come to his residence and have dance lessons in the basement.

After two hours of dancing, the book says Tan's wife Carmen would treat everybody to a midnight snack.

Lastly, Tan finds pleasure in telling stories, which almost always refer to China. Whenever he delivers a speech, he would draw an analogy between the past and the present. Tan says reviewing the past helps him understand the present, and the future. ***Tina Arceo-Dumlao***

LUCIO Tan, a chemical engineer by profession, who went on to build one of the country's biggest corporations.

PHOTOS FROM LUCIO C. TAN, XINHUA PUBLISHING HOUSE

TAN as a young chemist in 1954 (front row, extreme right) with colleagues at the Bataan Cigar and Cigarette Co.

Striking on his own and succeeding at it

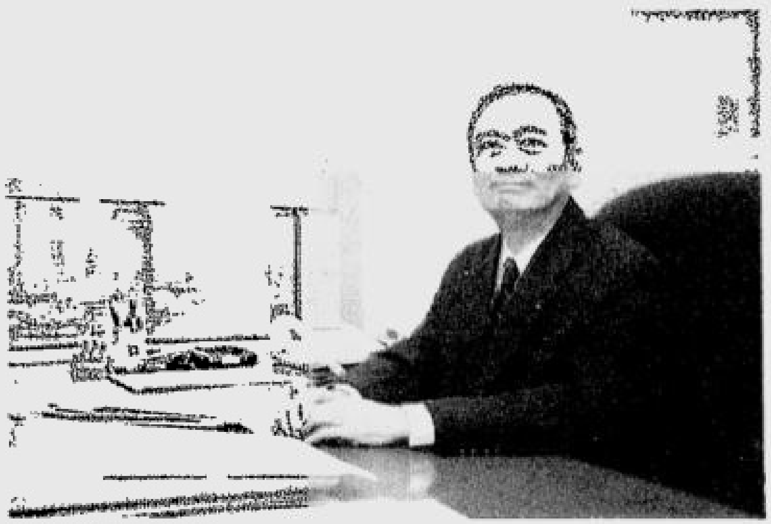
A MAN with keen foresight, Benjamin R. Punongbayan has always had a knack for seeing the big picture. He knows an opportunity when he sees one, and you can bet that he will be there to grab it even when odds are seemingly against him.

Take for example his decision to strike out on his own. Ben was at the peak of his career in one of the prestigious accounting firms in the country when he saw a possibility that made him decide to make a move that others clearly thought an unsafe and unwise one.

"At the time, things just seemed to be moving in a certain direction, the same direction as my vision," Ben simply states. "I was being given a chance to fulfill it. Even when some of my colleagues advised otherwise, I grabbed it because I saw it as an opportunity to realize my full potential."

Ben's vision was to establish his own accounting firm that exemplified his requisites for excellence, but it was a scary prospect. Ben had left an organization that was considered the No. 1 in its field, handling most of the accounting and auditing services of the top 1,000 corporations in the country. The competition certainly worried him, but what scared him was whether he could build a firm that people could trust.

"Any accounting firm will tell you that it takes decades to get to a level where anyone who hears your name can say, 'Yes, we can rely on them,'" Ben says. "To get there, you must establish a relationship that is based on trust and integrity. And you cannot build that overnight. It takes time, and the fact that there are only a few accounting firms with such a reputation confirms that it's a challenging journey."



PUNONGBAYAN

This is the reason Ben has obtained the acclaim of his peers. In just 14 years, he was able to put up a service-oriented accounting firm with a reputation for professionalism, integrity, objectivity and competence.

Punongbayan & Araullo (P&A), which he co-founded with former Unicard president Jose G. Araullo, now holds the prestige of being the third top accounting firm and is well-known for the high quality of its service.

"Right now, we are the best alternative when it comes to offering a full range of professional services in the areas of audit, tax, corporate finance and business support services," Ben says.

Clients go looking for P&A because they know that the firm has the right people, the right knowhow and the right working environment. P&A has already made a name for itself in its use of technology-based analytic tools toward "paper-less auditing." But more than its technology, it is its people that P&A is proudest of.

"We approach client service as a team, and we hire the best people," Ben says. "Once they're inside P&A, we spare no amount in giving them training to develop their potential." P&A people are known for being among the most skilled, technologically savvy and hardworking professionals in the industry.

Punongbayan used to be the local partner of Ernst & Young, one of the top accounting firms in the world, but the ties were severed when Ernst & Young decided to tie up with SGV & Co., the firm where Punongbayan started with.

Punongbayan is now scouting for a global partner.

Ben has always set the highest standards not only for P&A but also for himself. His career, which covers 40 years of professional services, has earned him numerous distinctions, including the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Picpa) Award for Outstanding CPA in Public Practice in 1987. He is currently the chair of the Accounting Standards Council. He placed third in the 1958 CPA licensure examinations and went on to get his MBA at Wharton Graduate School of the University of Pennsylvania.

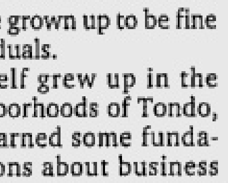
A rundown of his achievements, however, isn't complete without mentioning his accomplishments as a family man. When Ben talks about his wife Evelyn, it is always with warmth and affection. On weekends, the two usually set off for their farm in Cavite where they grow orchids and mango trees. The couple would like to have their two children with them on these weekend getaways, but right now they are both in the United States. Jay is studying at Boston University and Michelle, a CPA like her father, is working with a New York accounting firm. Ben is immensely proud that both of his children have grown up to be fine young individuals.

Ben himself grew up in the tough neighborhoods of Tondo, where he learned some fundamental lessons about business and commerce. Already driven at a young age, Ben took a job selling newspapers and pushed himself to become the top newspaper boy. He made many sacrifices, including foregoing precious hours of sleep in the morning. But Ben was grateful for the experience, which helped him discover his inborn desire to be the best.

"I have always wanted to be good in anything I do," Ben says. Clearly, he has gotten what he wanted.

Governance that promotes

MAPPING THE FUTURE



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But one of the first things we needed to do—even as we were just preparing for the IPO—was to get our own governance up to the standards expected of a public company. Although we were a privately held company, we had over a thousand employee-shareholders, so we had some fairly well-established governance mechanisms. But we definitely had to make some changes. So what I am going to be talking with you about today is fresh, real-world experience.

As an American who has traveled fairly extensively in Asia, I have a great deal of respect for the economic vitality of this region of the world. Being a bit of a student of history, I am also familiar with the long and special relationship between our two countries. There is much we in America can learn from careful study of Asia: an entrepreneurial spirit, work ethic, recognition of the importance of family, respect for the older generations—all values that translate across oceans—and they are values that make sense in business.

Over on our side of the ocean, we have been for many years working to refine business models—derived from various original sources pre-dating the founding of the United States—that facilitate commerce and the efficient use of capital. I wouldn't presume to come to Manila and suggest that "our way of corporate governance is the right way," or that what we do always works. (Especially after Enron, which is

GOVERNANCE/C5

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Can a CBA without a wage increase be signed?

NO wage increases. Can a collective bargaining agreement get signed with such a provision? Ask the militant Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU). An affiliate of it just recently did—but reasonably so, the concerned union members say.

This is the story.

Landmark deal

On one end of the bargaining table was the Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corp. (Pasar), the only one of its kind here, and the first in Southeast Asia. On another was the nearly 700-strong KMU-affiliate Concerned Organization of Pasar Progressive Employees for Reform-National Federation of Labor Unions (Copper-Naflu).

The three-year deal was inked at the plant site in Isabel, Leyte, last May 9. The two parties negotiated for about five months on, as both would now proudly contend, equal grounds.

"What we did was deal with union leaders with true transparency," Carlos G. Dominguez, Pasar chair and president, says. "We even showed them receipts."

KMU chair Rep. Crispin Beltran himself was magnanimous. "*Wala nang suhol-suhol sa* union leaders (No need for bribing)," states he, who represents the equally militant party-list Bayan Muna in Congress. *Tapatan lang at puwedeng pag-usapan* (Just be truthful and we can negotiate)."

Both panels, as witnesses to the signing repeatedly remarked, displayed "exemplary behavior," openly sharing corporate information and personal concerns. Jose P. Leviste, Pasar vice president and treasurer, has it that "political posturings did not overrun talks."

"The cooperation between management and union officials was simply breathless," Leviste enthuses.

At a joyous get-together of union and management that would be held later in Quezon City, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas could only smile in approval. "Thank you for not making the negotiations reach (my department)," she'd say, adding, in all candor: "Your CBA is an example of how other negotiations should proceed even with the supposed fiercest of labor unions."

The package

At it is, Pasar workers and employees belong to the top 5 percent of wage earners in Eastern Visayas. They receive an average daily wage package of P342 and an average total cash compensation of P697.

Of the CBA package, they got, for starters, a signing bonus of P8,232. Next, they were entitled to quarterly amounts to be given in 12 installments over the next three years, totaling P68,000 for each union member. Management says it's their way of providing immediate economic relief to what Pasar calls its "associates." Even without raising wages.

Both parties also agreed on an expanded hospitalization package to already include qualified dependents. Life insurances were doubled from P150,000 to P300,000—with a double indemnity clause. Individual housing loans of P120,000 were made available to all, payable in five years—without interest.

The historic, if novel CBA, involving a package of benefits worth P56 million, was ratified by 78 percent of the 699 union members.

Good, bad times

"At the end of the day, foremost to our members' concern was the survival of Pasar which will ensure everybody's continued employment," says Elmer Signe, union president.

As the union itself would see it, business prospects do not look that good for everyone in Pasar. Since late last year, the recession in the US and Japan resulted in market slumps, affecting Pasar's deliveries of copper and other products. Too, following 9-11, world market prices kept falling. Plant insurance premiums alone rose three-fold, from $1 million to $3 million.

Dominquez recounts how, in April last year, management gave out performance bonuses each equal to a month's salary. Not this year. "Business is shaky. We have to spend much in disposing our excess sulfuric acid."

'Good faith'

In times good and bad. That's how Pasar puts it. And Joselito Ustarez, national president of Naflu, could only agree. "Union did see total transparency," he notes. "From the start of the negotiations, it was clear to the union that the management panel had the heart to listen."

Dionisio Tejero, CBA counsel for Pasar, adds, "That Mr. Dominquez and the rest of the Pasar top officials actively participated in the negotiations was indication enough of good faith, a sign the union took to heart." Like Tejero, Ustarez would underscore that the eventual CBA was in recognition that Pasar is in crisis.

It is not as though Pasar workers and employees need no wage hikes. But while aware only too well of labor's rights, the union entered into the negotiations without really compromising its integrity. Of course, Beltran would want more on that.

"It is not hard to negotiate with our unions if management offers are within labor standards," he says. "But even if the company is unable to provide the basic labor standards because of prevailing difficulties, we are open to negotiations as long as management is open and sincere.

"The Pasar CBA is proof that KMU-affiliated unions are not that hard to deal with and CBA negotiations will run smoothly. We are only difficult with companies who begin negotiations with offers which are below labor standards."

Not sheer clench-fisted

Sto. Tomas is expectedly more than content. Unions, up against big business, survive not by clenched fists alone.

She says, only too emphatically, "*Takot ang investors dahil napakabagsik daw sa negosasyon ang* KMU pero *tingnan mo ang nangyari* (Investors are afraid because KMU is supposed to be fierce in negotiations but look what happened)."

The recent track record of KMU-affiliated unions runs against this dreaded reputation. Naflu, the largest labor federation affiliated with KMU, has been scoring a series of successes in CBA negotiations with big corporations. The impressive list involves DOLE Philippines, Philips, San Miguel Corp., RFM and of course, just fairly recently, Pasar.

"We got the maximum targets for most of these companies during the CBAs," Ustarez beams. "Our union at DOLE, the biggest affiliated union in Naflu with over 4,000 members, got unprecedented results. At Philips, we have been guiding the union since 1984 and labor-management relations remain smooth. There, rank and file employees get an average of P700 per day."

Emulation

Since 1990, Pasar, then under government management, had to face labor strikes every two years. Since it got privatized in 1999, the union has yet to call for one. And the deal is the first CBA forged by Pasar with a union in the last 10 years.

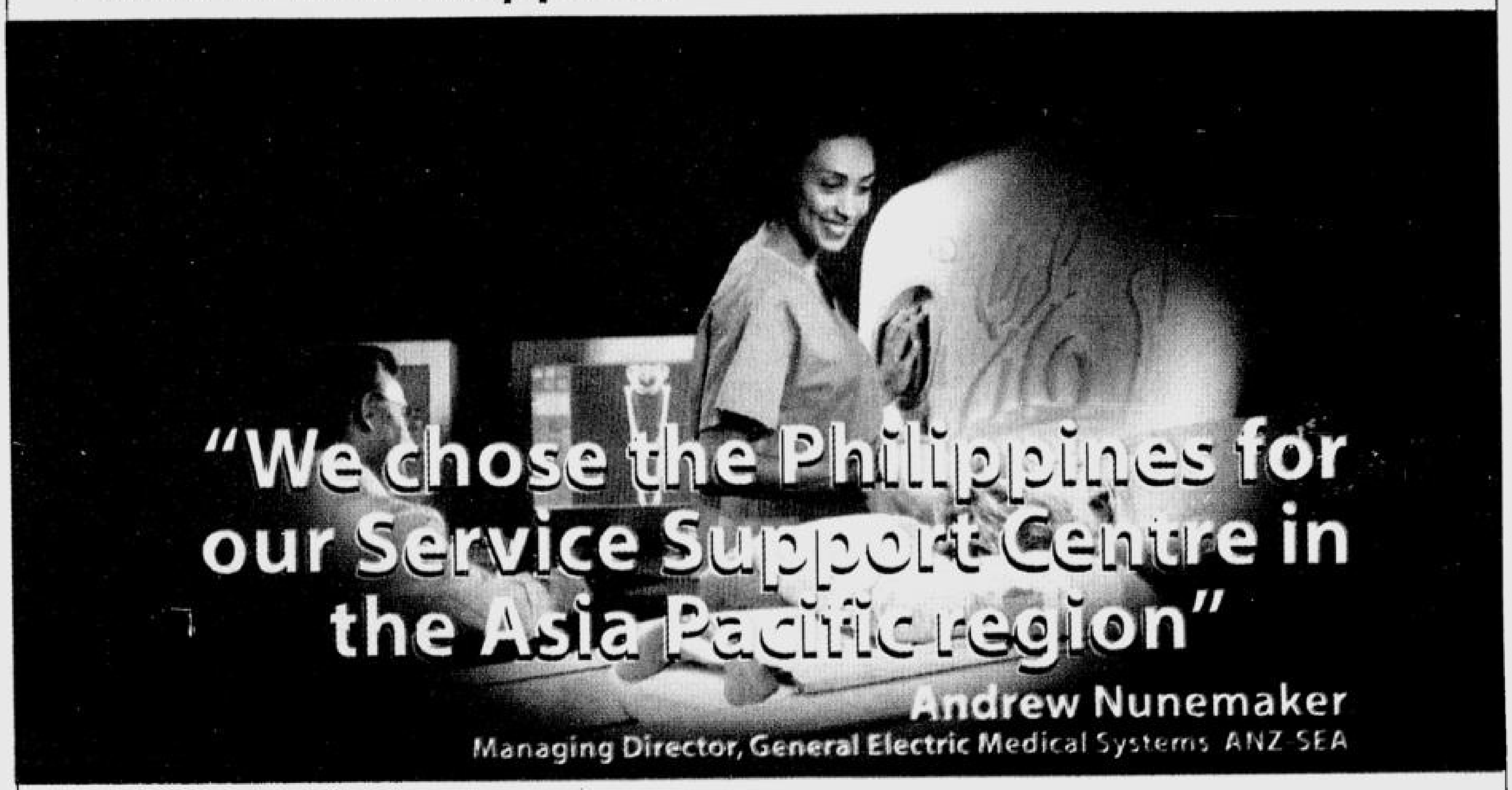
For Dominguez, it is more than just passing the, well, acid test in negotiations. It is striking gold in the hearts of his "associates." For the union, simply put, it could be done, a feat that can bode well for labor-management ties.

"Never in my 20 years of legal work did I witness negotiations without acrimonious debates," Tejero says.

Management and its so-called experts can keep providing for "infrastructure" to keep business moving forward, but unions, too, can provide the understanding, the momentum, to make change actually happen. And this is going against stereotypes. It is worth emulating.

AN AERIAL view of the Pasar compound

Faith in the Philippines


"We chose the Philippines for our Service Support Centre in the Asia Pacific region"
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General Electric selected the Philippines after extensive evaluation of other locations including Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia and India.

GE Medical Systems produces and services the latest in medical and diagnostic imaging equipment to hospitals and clinics the world over. Equipment that saves lives, enables correct diagnosis and assists in the treatment process.

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Andrew Nunemaker
Managing Director, GE Medical Systems ANZ-SEA

The Service Support Centre supports over 230 staff throughout these countries, with tasks including checking engineer dispatches, involving customers, and providing up to date account and equipment information.

The Philippines was selected following extensive evaluation of other locations including Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia and India.

"The selection of the Philippines was based on a strong combination of factors that were unique within the region. What particularly suited us was the availability of a workforce with highly developed English language skills, along with an attractive investment climate with positive scope for expansion," explains Andrew Nunemaker, Managing Director, General Electric Medical Systems ANZ-SEA.

"The Service Support Centre has already made such a positive impact upon GE Medical Systems that we'll be expanding and employing further staff in the next few months," he adds.

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Enron disgraced, but its trading ideas thrive

NEW YORK—Enron Corp. is fading fast into history, but some of its ideas are still making a mark.

While the bankrupt energy trader's name has become a synonym for chicanery, spawning a stream of congressional hearings, lawsuits and criminal investigations, for academics and business historians it's less of an open-and-shut case whether Enron's maverick trading ideas have merit.

The fact so many companies are trying to replicate pieces of the company's business plans serves as a reminder of Enron's innovation. It's true that some of its creations such as the trading of telecommunications bandwidth have failed miserably, but weather and electricity markets pioneered by the former energy trading giant continue to show promise.

"To create a new market does require innovative ideas and actions—markets don't just arise out of nothing," said John McMillan, a professor of economics at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business who wrote "Reinventing the Bazaar," a book that underlines the importance of market formation throughout history.

"There is a social value, and not just private profit, in creating ways of making mutually improving transactions. A better functioning energy market in principle helps consumers as well as traders," McMillan said.

Exploiting trading skills

Enron's plan was to parlay skills honed by its energy trading business into other arenas, including pulp and paper, metals, broadband, weather derivatives and financial products, hoping its role as a principal would give it market dominance, much like Enron OnLine did for electricity and natural gas.

"Enron reinvented the modern, commodity trading infrastructure . . . They did a lot of missionary work there," said John Olson, an energy analyst with Sanders Morris Harris, a Houston-based investment bank.

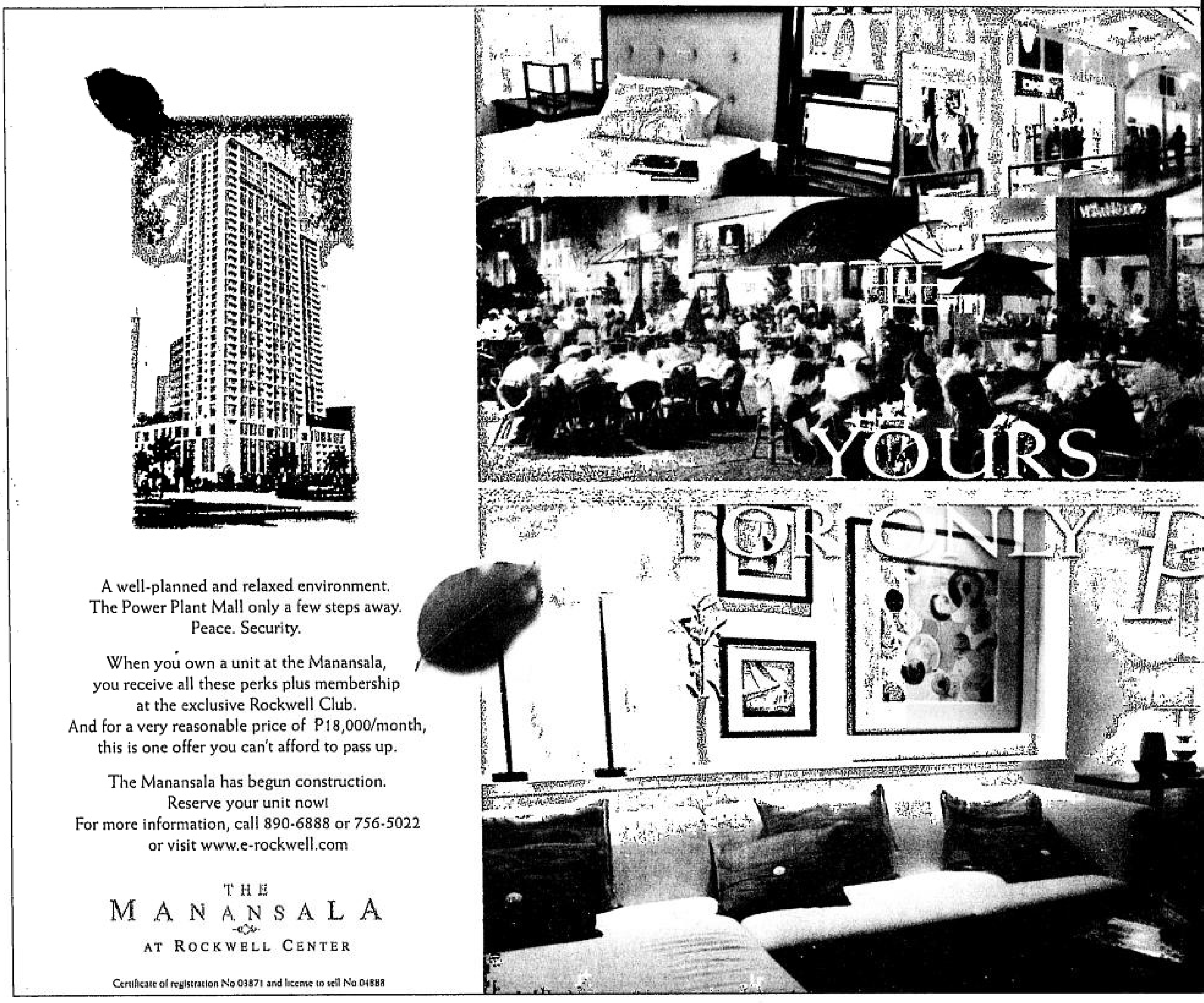
Olson said Enron, which rang up big profit and revenue gains while its stock soared, led the way in such commonly accepted energy trading practices as online trading.

Enron achieved a national reputation as an advocate of deregulation and market-based business, taking a leadership role that put it in the forefront of business, landing most admired and most wired accolades in many publications.

"They were the ones who were pushing for the progressive deregulation of the markets and they were also involved in a variety of related fronts like over-the-counter derivatives," Olson said.

But for various reasons, the energy trading model, while providing the capital for other ventures, did not always translate well into other commodities or markets.

For instance, its effort to promote trading in broadband—the telecommunications capacity that was growing by leaps and bounds as the world became an Internet global village—failed largely because the underlying telecoms business collapsed due to too much supply and not enough end user demand. ***Reuters***



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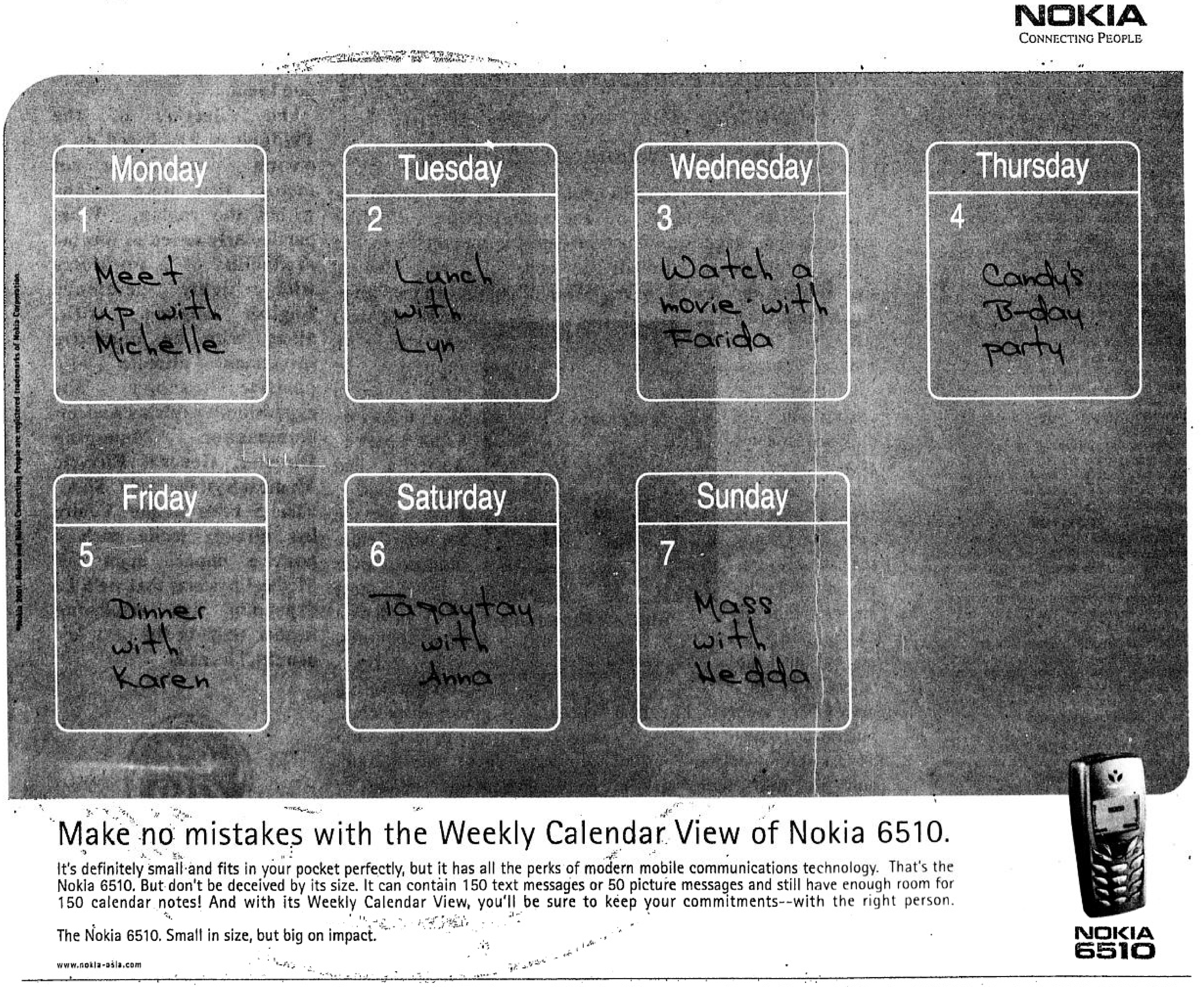

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Governance that promotes

From page C2

emerging as one of the greatest business scandals—and breakdowns of effective governance—in our nation's history.) I would be the first to admit — even before Enron—that not all of the so-called "cultural exports" from America are positive. (I often cringe at some of the American television I see in hotel rooms around the world, wondering what kind of impression of our country we are giving our neighbors.) But, it is fair to say that in the business arena we have borrowed, modified, created and experimented with some institutions and processes that should transcend borders and be useful in any society that aspires to being a vigorous and healthy competitor in the global marketplace.

Observers in the Americas have been impressed by the extraordinary economic progress in East Asia over the past several decades. Commercial activity here has affected the very mindset of American business people, who now look to Asia as much, if not more than to Europe, as the wave of the future. But the road is still bumpy, as the so-called Asian financial crisis of the late '90s showed.

Coming out of a crisis

I know that in the Philippines, especially through the Institute of Corporate Directors and your SEC, you have been making real strides in getting the word out about the importance of good governance in promoting your economy. That initiative has accompanied reforms or proposals for reform in the banking sector, in securities laws, in creditors' rights and other critical elements of a stable and vibrant economy. This is all good news indeed.

The Philippines has had a somewhat mixed record when it comes to the conditions necessary for economic growth and development, or at least the perception of those conditions from an international perspective—as I am sure you all know better than I do. The World Bank has reported that among the root causes of the Asian financial crisis of the late '90s was the "rapid and unsustainable buildup of investment in fixed assets financed by excessive borrowing," (especially in Indonesia, Korea and Thailand). This "spending spree" resulted in poor profitability, reflected in low returns on equity and capital.

On a country-by-country basis, despite a prolonged drought and the Asian financial crisis, the Philippines fared reasonably well compared with much of the rest of Asia in 1997-98 because of some fundamental strengths of your economy and society. Compared with some of your neighbors, the Philippines performed favorably by a number of measures, including some of the standard financial operating ratios and other indicators of corporate sector strength. But the Philippines fared relatively poorly on some other measures, such as confidence in the rule of law, enforcement of accounting standards, concentration of share ownership and protection of investors.

Of course, the Philippines is not China— you have a long history of free markets and the formal structures of an established legal and judicial system. You have a written constitution, a SEC dating back to 1936, a new Securities Regulation Code and, I understand, a brand-new Code of Corporate Governance. You have intellectual property protections, and you subscribe to internationally recognized accounting standards.

But there remains a perception that enforcement is not as strong as it should be, and that well-connected insiders can influence outcomes in the legal process and in business competition. Many signs point to a robust movement to change those perceptions, as the recently enacted reforms I just mentioned bear witness.

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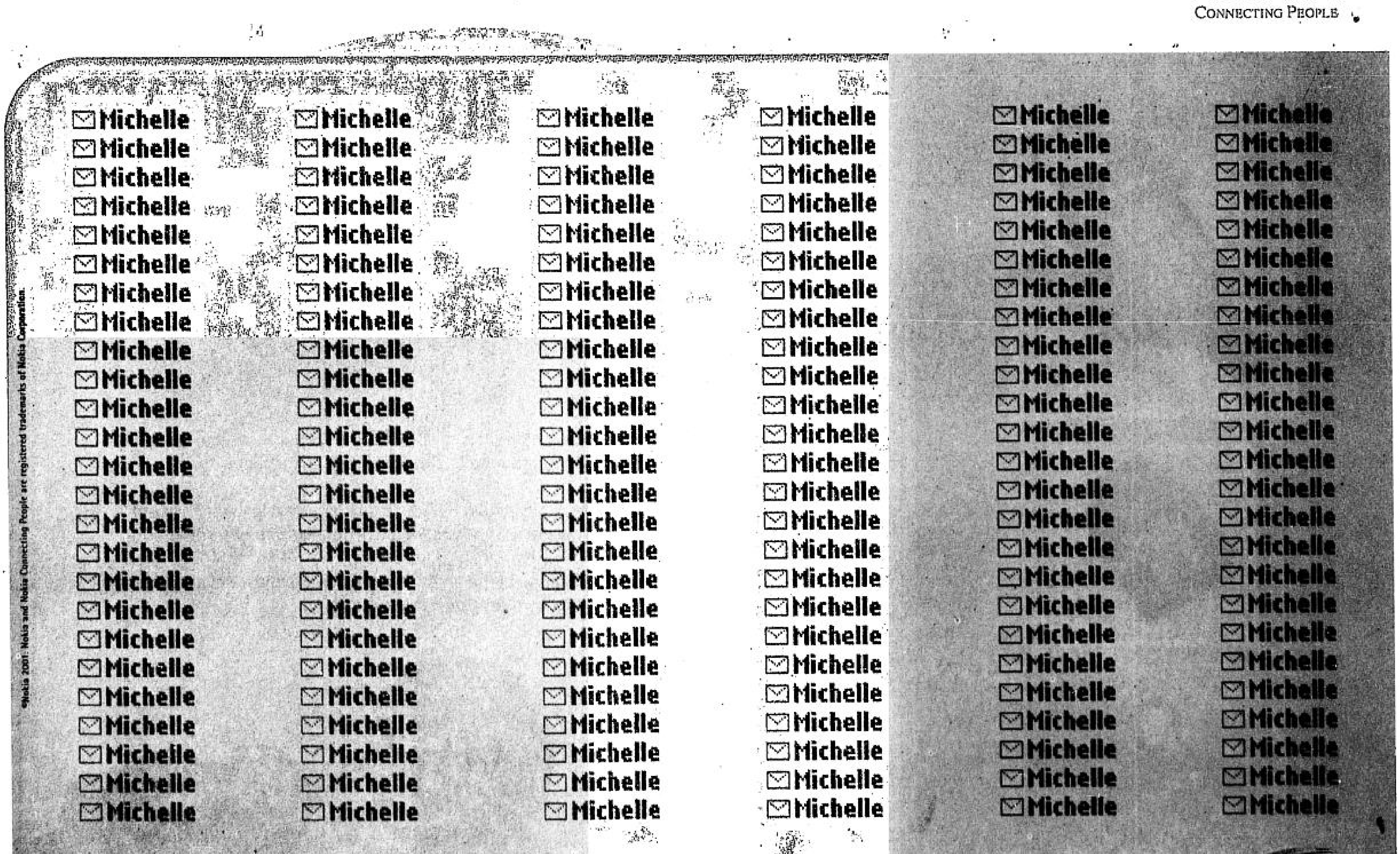
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Have you checked your business strategy lately?

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

TRADE and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas II (left) with Carol Carreon, CEO Bayantrade, and Harvard Business Review professor Robert Kaplan.

CITIBANK consumer banking head Nina Aguas (left) with Edward Fereira, MAP conference chair, and Citibank's Cecile Fonacier.

MAP president Ramon Dimacali in a discussion with Clement Wang of the National University of Singapore.

GIANT oil firm Mobil wanted to sell the cheapest gasoline in America as their business strategy.

Unfortunately, sourcing limitations did not allow them to adopt such a focus.

They resorted to another strategy—create the best buying experience for its consumers.

When told of the new strategy, one employee thought of how to create the best buying experience by making gassing up fast. He stumbled on the idea of a speed stick which is a gadget that is pressed in a gas pump and immediately registers the name of the customer and the credit card the gas purchase will be charged to.

Harvard professor Robert Kaplan who was in Manila last week to speak to CEOs at the MAP International CEO Conference, describes the Mobil as a successful case of transcending a business strategy to the individual employees.

"When you develop a strategy you have to understand the market and your own capability," Kaplan says in an interview with Business Monday. "Mobil's strategy was the same—create a great buying experience—but the tactic that evolved inside the organization changed because of the scorecard."

Kaplan's latest book with David Norton is "The Strategy-Focused Organization: How Balanced Scorecard Companies Thrive in the New Business Environment" which articulates the key principles needed to build an organization that can achieve breakthrough and sustainable performance improvements.

ROBERT Kaplan, author of "The Balanced Scorecard."

REX Drilon II, chief operating officer of Ortigas and Co.

ROBERTO de Ocampo of the Asian Institute of Management (left) in a huddle with Horace Yuen, assistant director, HK government. With them is Brett Decker, editorial page writer of the Asian Wall Street Journal.

PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

Kaplan's research, lectures and consulting work focus on linking cost and performance measurement systems to strategy implementation and operational excellence.

Kaplan says big or small, companies must draw up a strategy and the measures via the scorecard to check the success.

But Kaplan says strategies are not meant to remain constant. They should be reviewed at least annually or even more often depending on the environment.

And the key is to make sure the strategy filters down to the smallest business unit in an organization.

The need for strategy and scorecards are vital, according to Kaplan, because gone are the days when the owners simply designed the processes for the businesses and then hired the employees to do the work.

"In today's competitive environment, you cannot just tell people what to do, you have to engage the employees in helping you implement these strategies," he adds.

He says the key is for the companies to find their niche, which then becomes their strategy to keep.

Big or small it is imperative for firms to determine their comparative advantages as this would protect them from competition.

"You have to do things that will make it difficult for your competitors to copy," Kaplan says.

He points out that even startups must assess their capabilities first before setting up. "The strategy is not just a good business model but how to position that business model that it is not easily imitated."

In today's competitive world, there is room for both big and small companies.

Kaplan says alliances with big companies are necessary, but big companies also invest in small firms because they know those are where the ideas are.

In his talk, Kaplan says product cycles in a global environment can be as short as one week. All the rules are new and they keep on changing.

To succeed in this new environment, Kaplan says Philippine firms should become strategy-focused organizations to survive.

This means balancing long- and short-term priorities and differentiating value propositions for different customer segments.

The country's top leaders were on hand to listen to professor Kaplan.

The conference organized by the Management Association of the Philippines also dwelled on defining the new Asian Corp. and the new Asian enterprise community. There were also talks on social responsibility and implementing and managing strategy.

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Remembering a job for rest of their working lives

For most college students, landing a summer job is the doorway to discovering the demanding and exciting world of corporate life. It is during the summer internship that the minds and pliant attitudes of these young men and women are crafted and formed for the very first time.

As such, the institutions welcoming these interns come face-to-face with the responsibility of making this first foray into the corporate world positive, productive and educational.

This responsibility was in the mind of Ramon Sy, iBank president and CEO, when he personally took part in conceptualizing and structuring iBank's summer training program.

"I believe that it is iBank's mission and an important moral contribution to the community to provide graduating students with good training. This is an opportunity for them to experience working in a service-oriented bank which will help them prepare for their careers whether in banking or in other industries," Sy points out.

> 'A bank's summer job program goes beyond introducing interns to the rudiments of banking'

Tough screening

Six years and 240 trainees after its inception, the iBank summer training program has already earned a reputation in the academic community for being tough and different.

While interns in other companies would merely be tasked to answer phones, photocopy documents, run errands or encode data, iBank's summer trainees go through a professionally designed process that assures them of a summer well spent.

The difference is clear, right from step one. The bank's recruitment center follows a strict and rigorous method of spotting potential trainees. Close to 500 students from colleges and universities like Ateneo, La Salle, UP, FEU, UA&P, St. Scholastica's College, Assumption, Chiang Kai Shek, Miriam, San Beda go through pre-screening and personality tests, as well as one-on-one and panel interviews.

In the end, only 40 will make it.

Ateneo de Manila graduate Julie Ann Ng, now a strategy and business consultant at Accenture, remembers her feelings of "nervousness and anticipation" as she went through the screening process.

"The 10-minute waiting period where people were either asked to stay for the interview or were thanked for their time was the most agonizing," Julie shares.

Janice Sy, now working as a distribution trader at iBank's treasury group, was impressed at how professionally they were treated, being college students then. "The recruitment office handled us professionally even if we were just in for the internship."

For those who make it through, the feeling of pride is matched only by the excitement as the six-week summer training program unfolds.

Values for all seasons

A trainee at iBanks's summer program can look forward to being immersed into the daily tasks of world-class banking. They go through lectures followed by actual exposure in the various units of iBank before being assigned to different branches for observation and hands-on experience.

After some time, the trainees are made to choose a unit where they undergo the rigorous on-the-job training, including the specialized skills unique to that unit.

Yet, perhaps the most important lesson learned in the early weeks of the program cannot be found on the syllabus or in any reference material.

"We do not just teach banking. We teach values. Our institution is built on the sense of urgency, pride in one's work, esprit de corps, commitment to excellence, integrity, altruism and leadership," explains Buena Chanco, executive vice president and cluster head for human resource management.

"These values that we inculcate into these interns who will become future corporate citizens will be of great use to them no matter what industry they end up in, no matter what department they are assigned to. Skills are important. But learning would not be complete without a sound professional value system—we emphasize this to our trainees," she adds.

At the end of six weeks, the 40 participants conduct an intimate *tete-a-tete* with bank president Ramon Sy himself. Sy listens intently to them as they share their experiences and evaluate the program.

University of the Philippines graduate Ava Rhea Reyes cherishes most of all, that meeting with the bank president.

"Looking back, it was very crucial to the career path I chose. That meeting was very valuable and the vision mapping (knowing one's personal direction in life) was very useful; it made me think seriously about the future," she says. Ava Rhea now works as a mortgage banking associate at the bank's consumer banking center.

May Villalon, now an executive vice president at Scenema Concept Inc., sums up the most important lesson from her summer experience: "Good morals, proper ethics and teamwork. These are ingredients behind the success of an organization and I take this to heart everywhere I go."

One comment common among all the interns was how they were treated as professionals while still on the verge of entering the corporate world, and how it figured greatly in how they are now faring in their chosen fields both within and outside the banking industry.

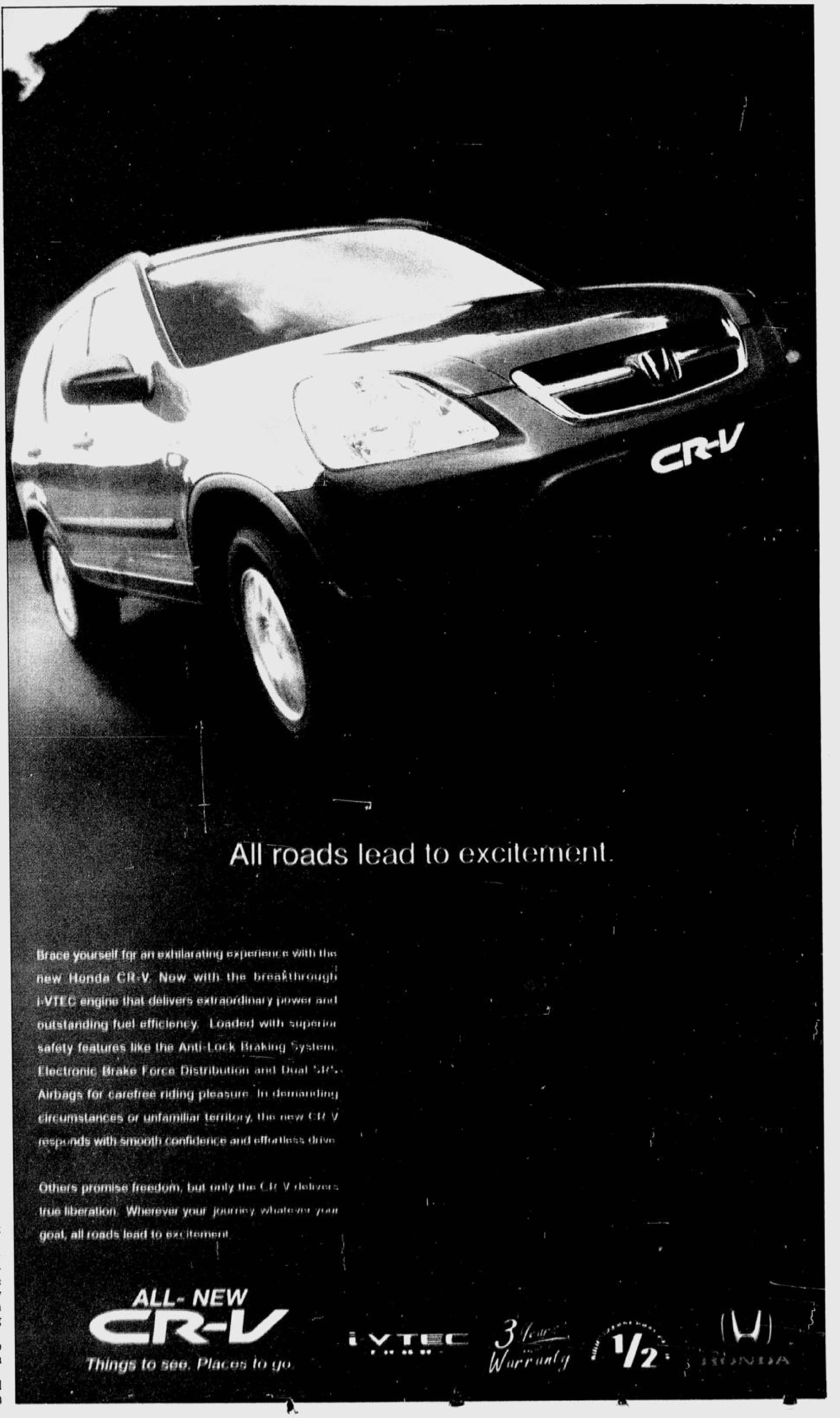
De La Salle University grad Mon Cayabyab will forever value the interactions he had with the iBank staff.

"I was with the bank's marketing group and I was encouraged to contribute my ideas in developing an advertising concept and strategy for a new product that was about to be launched," Mon, now a revenue associate of Novitaire Inc., recalls.

Noel Presa, a graduate of psychology from St. Benedict College, took part in the program in 1999 and took pride in the fact that he was treated "more like an adult than a mere student." Being assigned to responsibilities that were being performed by regular employees boosted his confidence. Noel now works as a recruitment associate of the bank, a job that enables him to live out iBank's corporate values on a daily basis.

In the final analysis, iBank's summer training program is not as much about banking as it is about integrity. This is why to this day, Sy still makes time despite his busy schedule to personally oversee the summer training program. After all, building strength of character among those who will soon be joining the workforce is a concern so important it deserves the attention of no less than the president.

IBANK president Ramon Sy visits a mock-up branch.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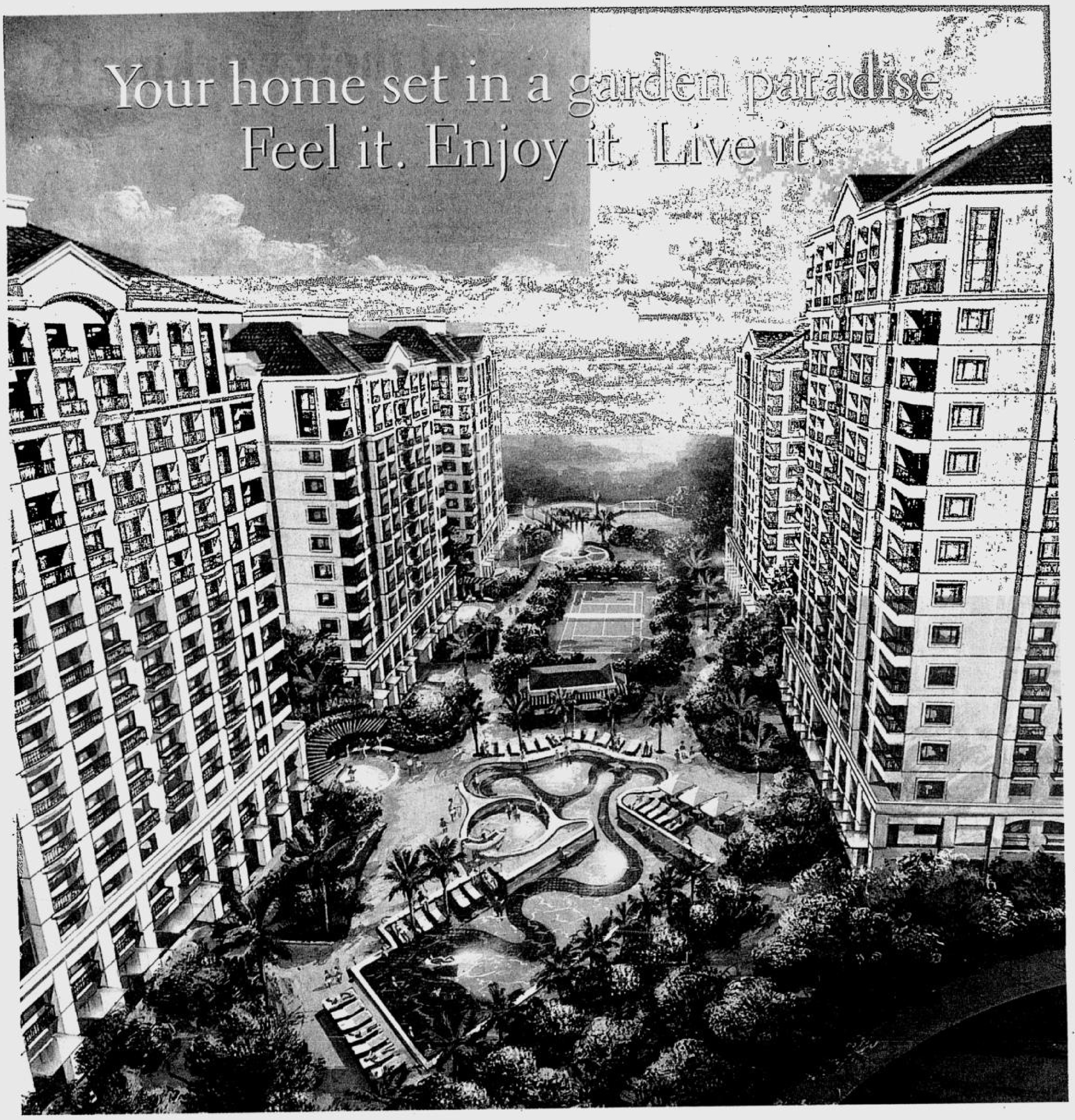
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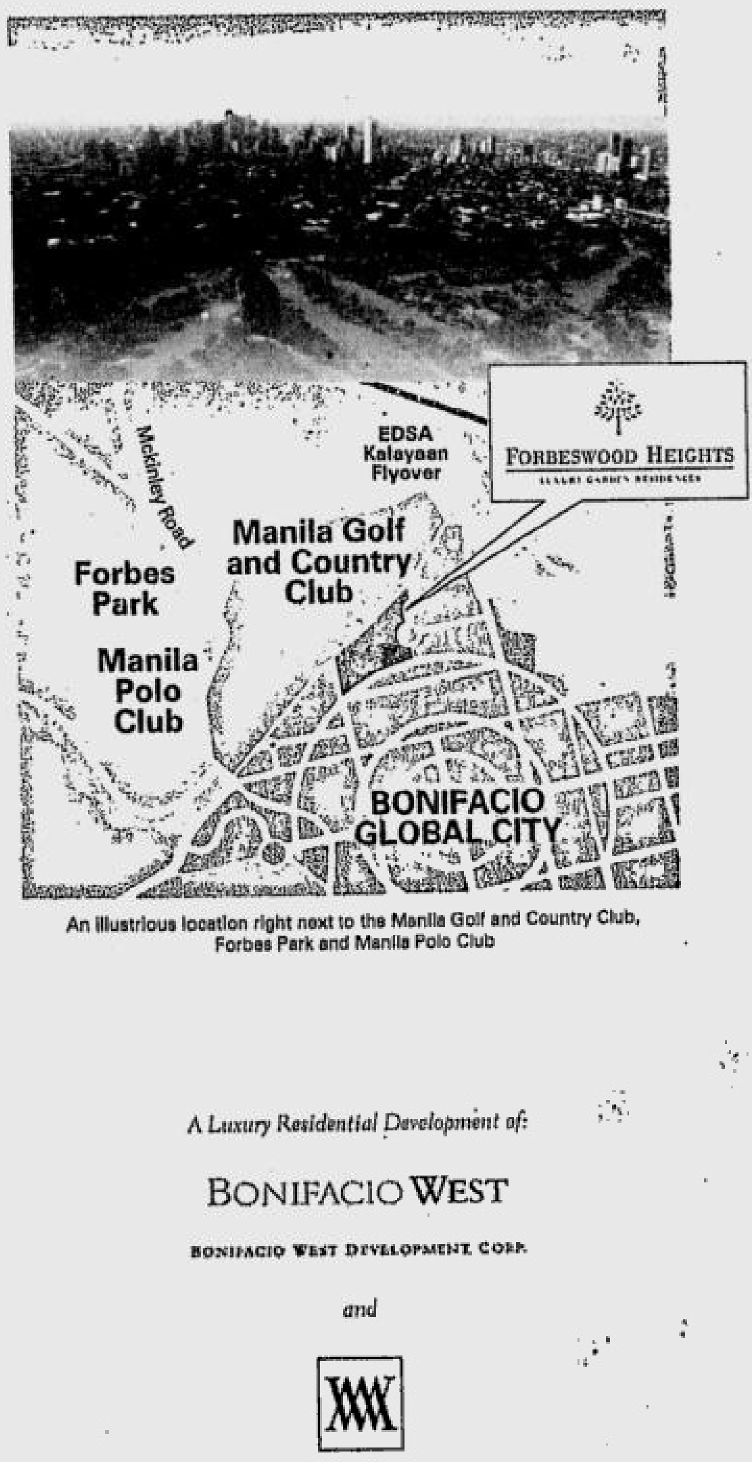
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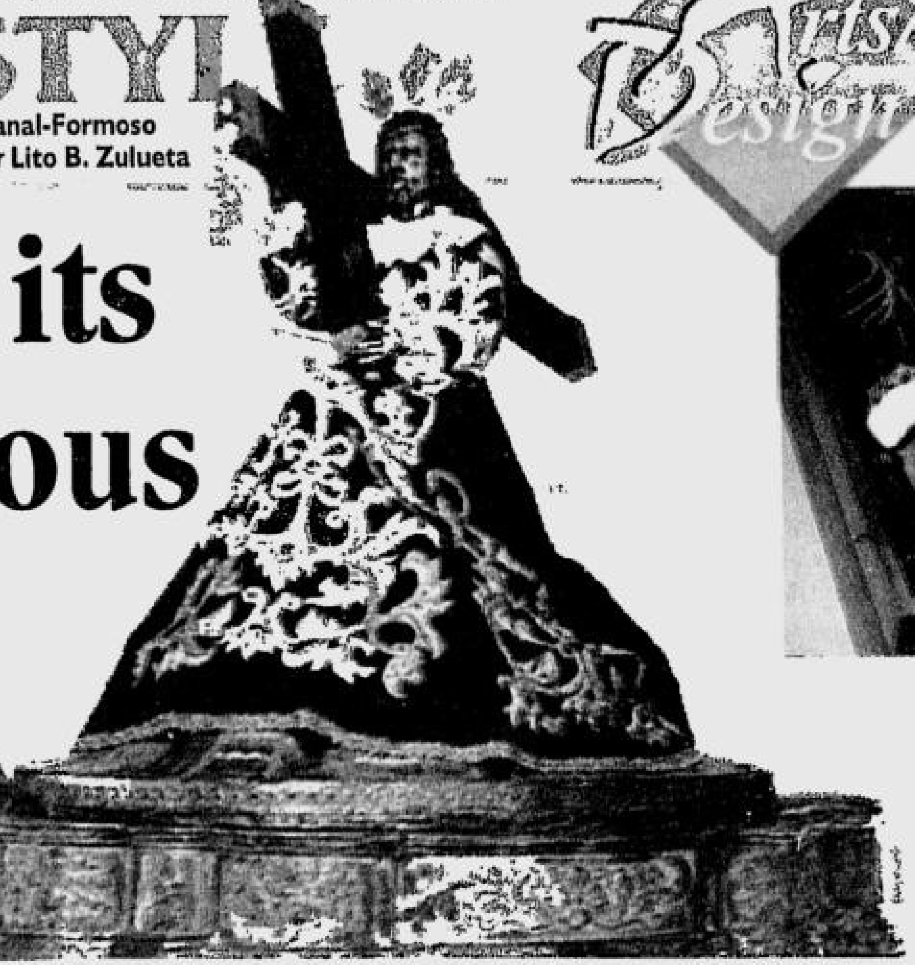
Folk art at its most glorious

By Constantino C. Tejero



ANDAS of the Nazareno, beaten metal, wood, in use until the 1970s, Aera Foundation

THE NAZARENE'S hand for kissing, wood and velvet, undated

"PILOSOPONG Tasyo" by Graciano T. Nepomuceno, *molave*, varnish, 1958, Pagrel Collection

A RARE exhibit Manileños shouldn't miss is the one ongoing until June 29 at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila on Roxas Boulevard.

Titled "Quiapo: The Arts of a City District," the exhibit has a subject so large and rich the objects d'art have started crawling from the Tall Gallery, up a bedecked spiral staircase, to a bridge of The Catwalk. It's hard to itemize the objects gathered here, as the eyes dart here and there dazzled by light, colors and shapes.

The gallery is dominated by the replica of the statue of the Black Nazarene, naturally, since the icon is the centerpiece that draws the huddling masses to the place the whole year long. Dressed in blood-red velvet heavily embroidered in gold, this object of intense veneration looks like a beacon from which all light emanates.

The objects surrounding this centerpiece are no less flamboyant—from the shimmering *standartes* to the shawls and *baro't saya* of silk and *piña* cloth. And no less quaint—from the *anting-anting* and the herbs and potions to the giant iron spiders on the wall.

Christian and Muslim cultures meet here, as well as the secular and the religious. There are items from the Basilica of the Black Nazarene as well as from the Golden Mosque. These are stuff that represents not only the native arts and ways of life of a community but also its folk religion.

The statuary shops, ateliers and *talleres* are well represented by objects we find banal in their natural settings but that assume a certain charm in a museum. (There are even a few pieces from the candle-maker, it wouldn't be too much to expect something also from the butcher and the baker.)

Along with old photographs are accomplished oil paintings, charcoal and pen-and-ink drawings by unknown artists: solemn portraits, misty impressionist landscapes, realist cityscapes, still lifes, oil on silk canopies of the Eucharist by Mother Teresa Vicente of the Holy Face.

There are also artworks by the famous: Vicente Manansala, Pablo Amorsolo, Diosdado Lorenzo, Danilo Dalena, Nena Saguil, Elmer Borlongan, Romulo Galicano, Jorge Pineda, Ricarte Puruganan, a Manuel Rodriguez Sr. etching, Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo's two portraits of his mother, José Rizal's 1885 oil portrait of Maximino Paterno, and, of course, Gilda Cordero-Fernando's zany renditions in watercolor of alternative floats for the Quiapo procession.

A most curious item that we've seen for the first time in our life is four embroidery pieces made of human hair on crinkled silk, by Adelaida and Trinidad Paterno. Encased in glass, they look like ordinary landscape sketches done in pen and ink on parchment. But upon realizing what they are actually made of, we begin to see their weird beauty.

Among the more colorful chapters we remember from Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere" was the one about the Quiapo carnival. And here in this exhibit are gathered under one roof some of those strange objects Rizal conjured from that magical place.

This is a massive exhibit, and we admire the people behind it for their courage and capacity to assemble all the jigsaw-puzzle pieces—from the sublime to the ridiculous, high and low—and attempt to depict this singular place.

SILVER purse of Ysidra Lim, ca. 1900, Estrella Collection

ITEMS used for the Nazarene fiesta: trimming for the cross, silver bird, belt and slipper for the Nazareno, plated, engraved and beaten medal, private collection

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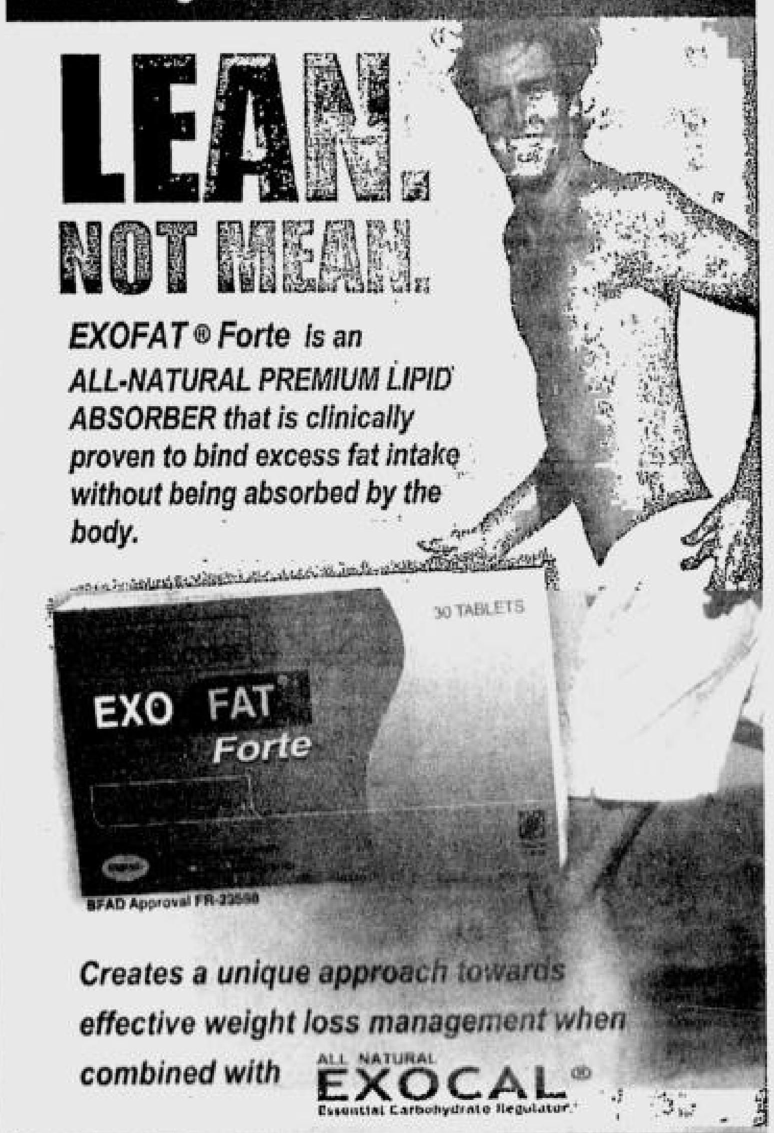

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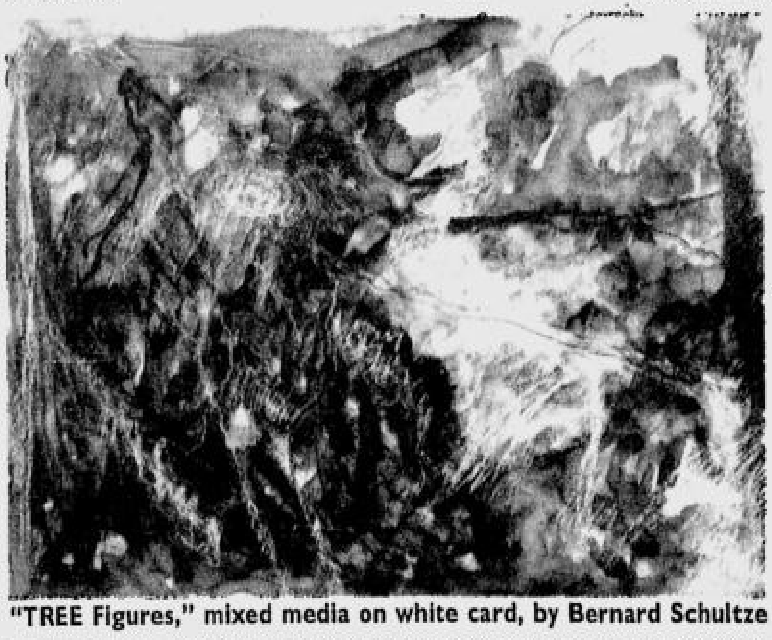
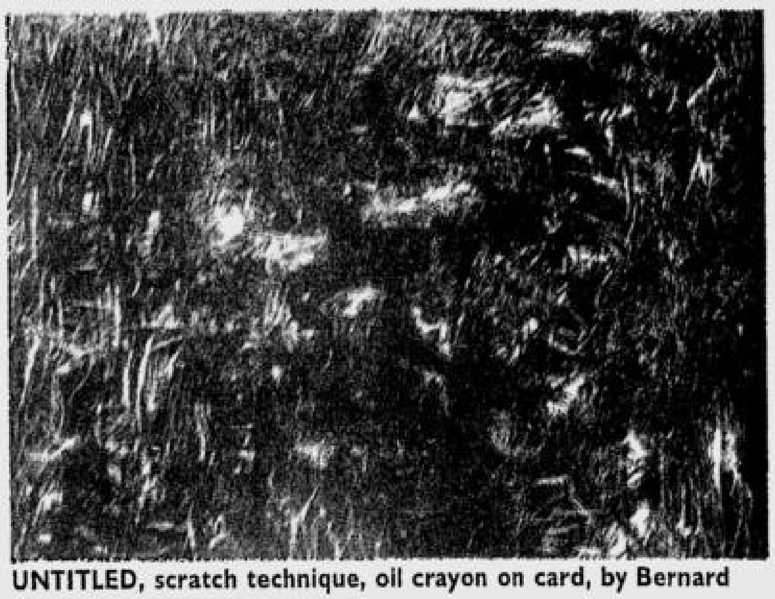
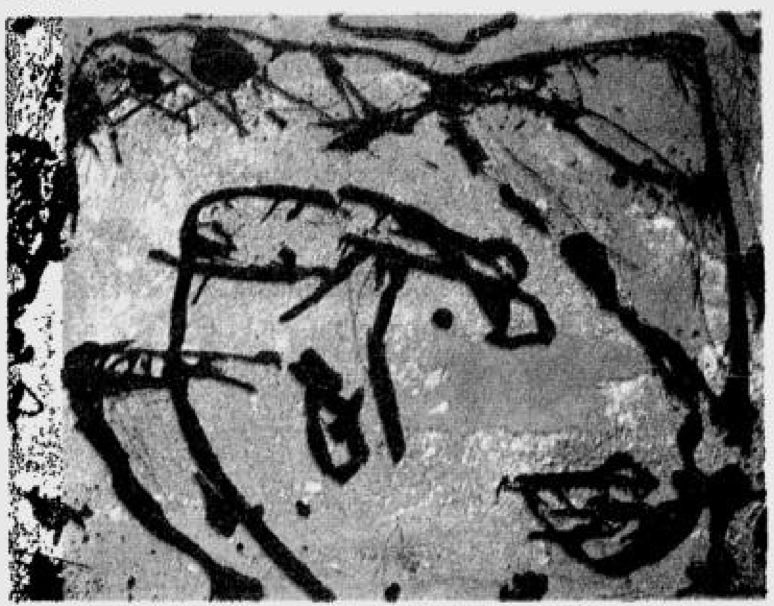
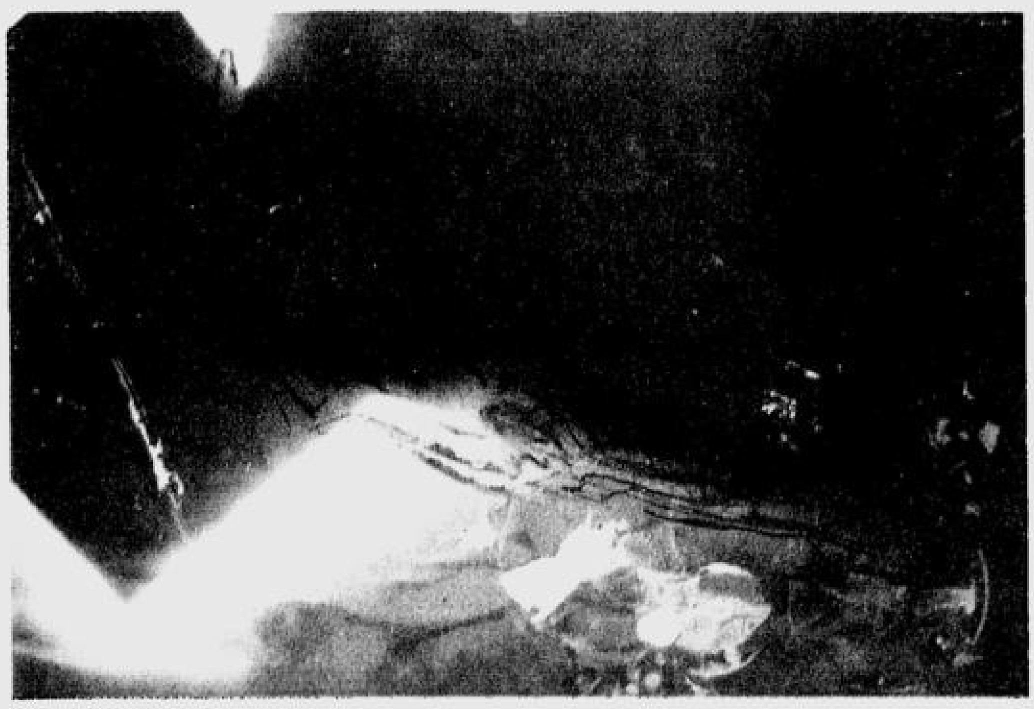
Lyrical abstraction from postwar Germany

By Constantino C. Tejero


"TREE Figures," mixed media on white card, by Bernard Schultze


UNTITLED, scratch technique, oil crayon on card, by Bernard Schultze


UNTITLED, etching (aquatint), by Emil Schumacher


UNTITLED, gouache, by Fred Thieler

THE WORKS of three important German artists—among the most influential in German art of the postwar years—are in Manila since May 2, and many of our own artists and art critics don't even know where they are.

Presented by the Goethe Institut Inter Nationes is an exhibition of the Institute for Foreign Relations, Stuttgart, Germany, showcasing artworks by Bernard Schultze, Emil Schumacher and Fred Thieler. The works are displayed until June 29 at The Catwalk of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila on Roxas Boulevard.

The 61 pieces range from aquarelles to gouaches, etchings, chalk, charcoal, pencil drawings, mixed media, from monochromes to primary colors, from small pieces of tinted paper to huge canvases, from the early 1950s to the early 1990s. All drips and dabs, scratches and splotches, they celebrate formlessness.

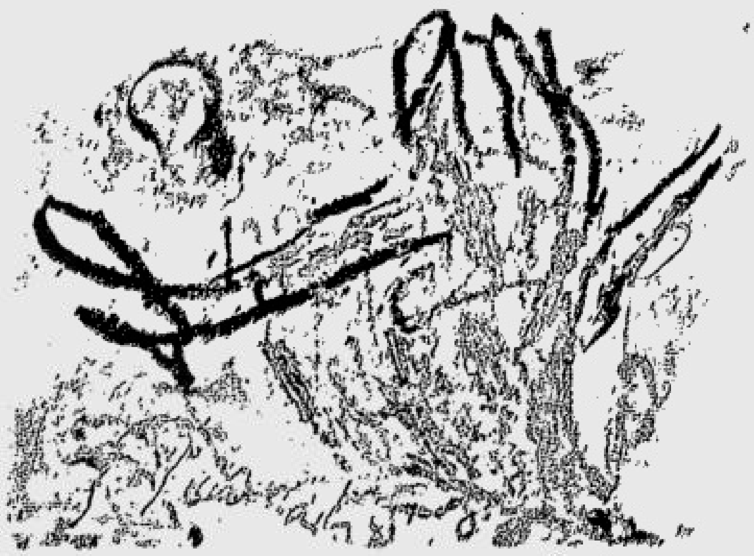
This is Art Informel (or "without form"), also known as Tachisme, a movement sometimes associated with Abstract Expressionism and Jackson Pollock's Action Painting. In the mid-century, seeking a new language and a complete break with the past, its proponents eschewed the geometrical and figurative forms of their predecessors and used only dabs and splotches, instinctive and spontaneous, to attain a lyrical abstraction.

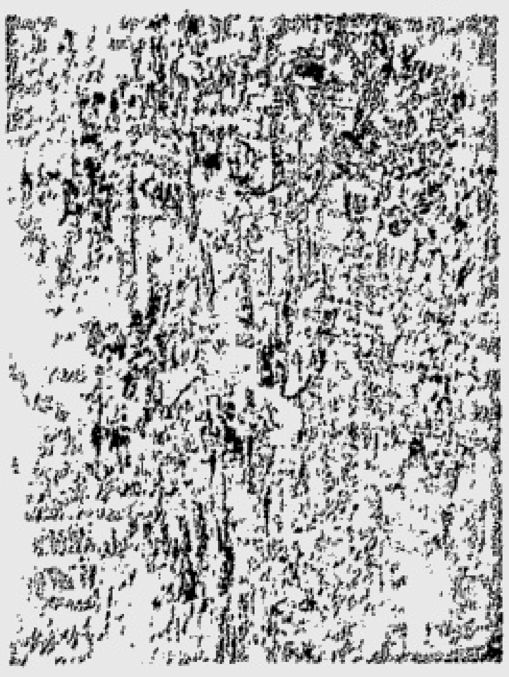
The three artists are among the founders of the German Informal. At first glance, their works may look related to Pollock's, but it's possible they have no direct link to the American's. It's even possible they had not heard of him at all when they did their early works.

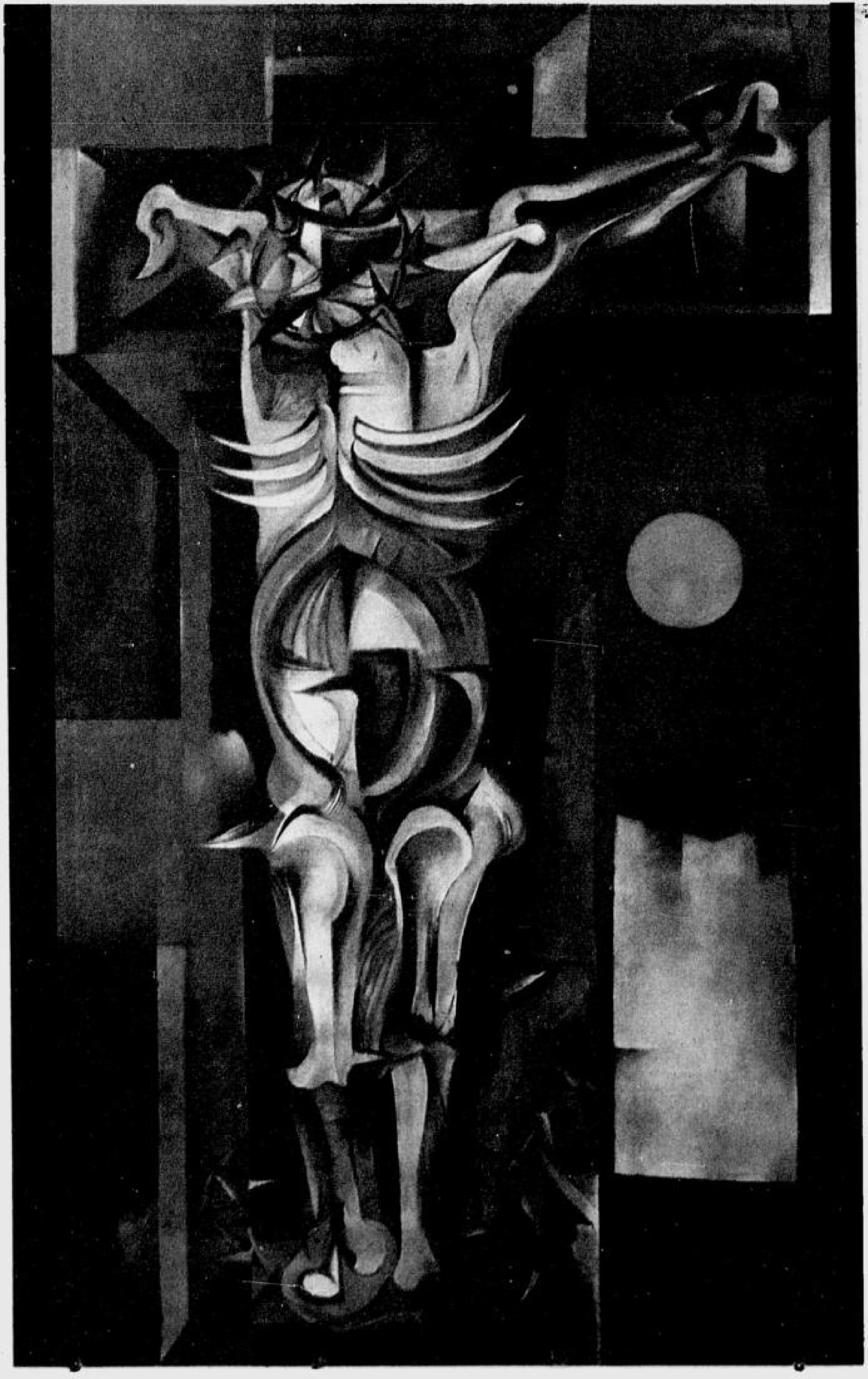
For one, they appear more restrained, carefully following a design for each piece—obviously a departure from Pollock's savage spattering and subconscious dripping. Then again their mediums are different from his.

Schultze explores the unconscious world, the realm of his dreams, using watercolor,

LYRICAL/ p.D3


UNTITLED, gouache, by Emil Schumacher


UNTITLED, silkscreen ink on card, by Fred Thieler


"Crucifixion," part of the legendary series of Ang Kiukok, National Artist; UST (1952-1954)

A Thomasian painted this.

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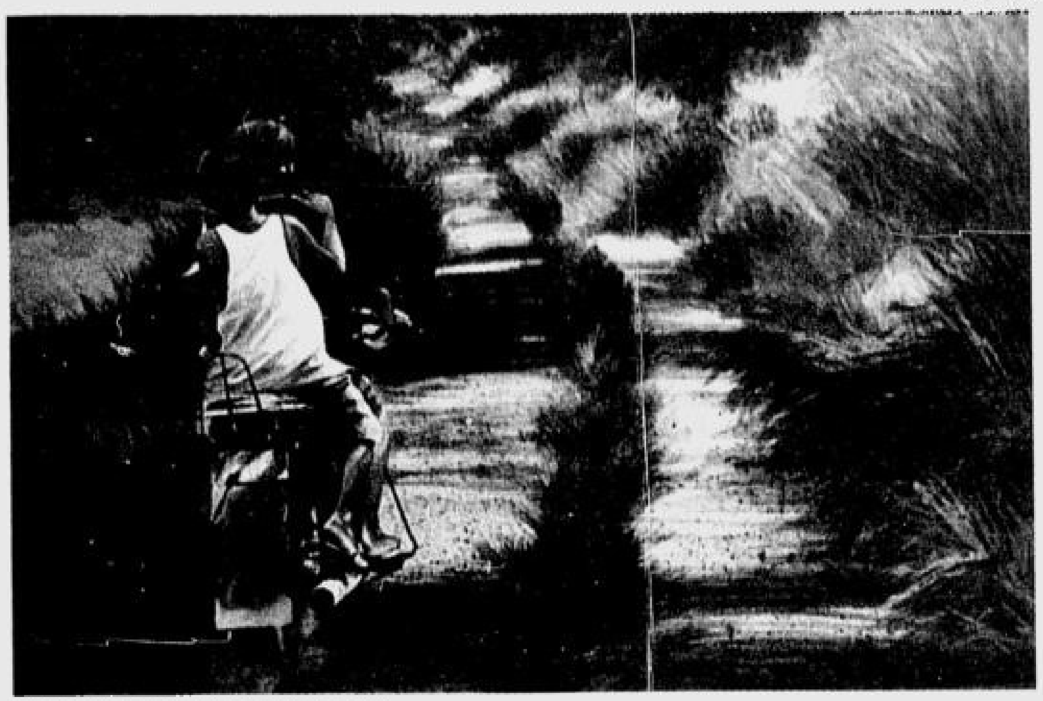
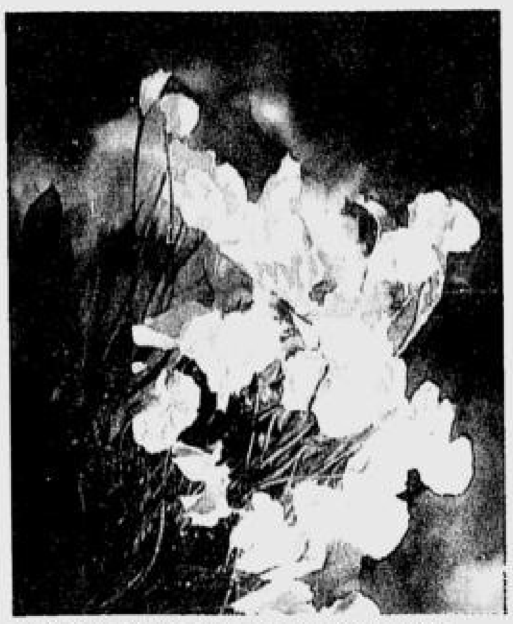


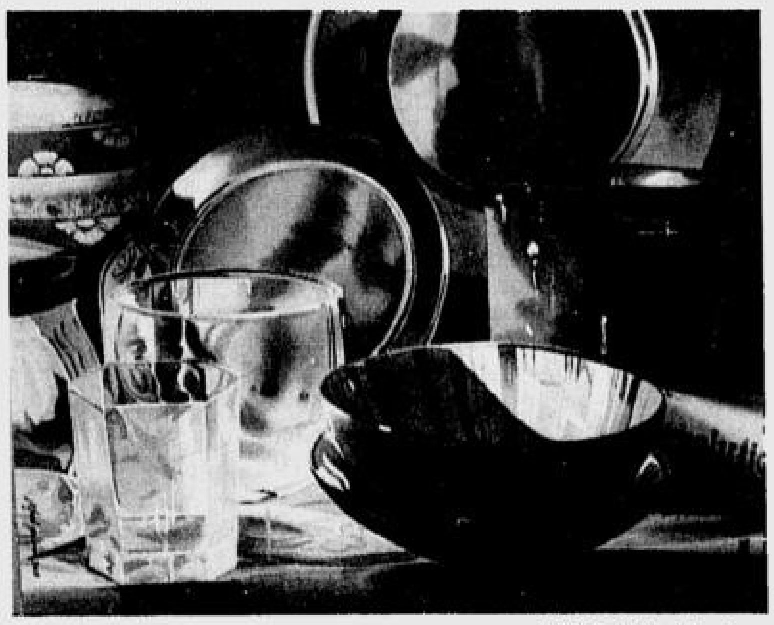
AN EERIE sense of hyper-reality

Return of the native

OCW Alfred Galura goes full-time as artist



THE EXACT moment when the artist allows the watercolor to flow



RANDOM objects in perfectly calculated composition

By Jonathan Libarios Rondina
Contributor

ARTIST Alfred Galura is waxing nostalgic. "I miss Manila's chaotic temper, its smog, even the traffic," he says.

But one can hardly find fault in Galura's occasional adventures into nostalgic romanticization. As a gifted watercolorist, he sees a multitude of colors even amid the squalor of this urban jungle. And, having spent the last nine years away from the Philippines as an overseas contract worker, Galura knows only too well that home is where the heart is. Or, more to the point, where his art is.

This month, Galura is taking a giant leap of faith. He has given up his post at the Saudi Oger, one of Saudi Arabia's biggest architectural firms, to concentrate full-time on his art.

"*Nakakatakot,*" he confesses, aware that the artist's life is bereft of the financial security that comes with a 9-to-5 job in a multinational firm. But fear is a necessary ingredient of passion and Galura is a passionate man.

To celebrate this milestone in his career, Galura is staging "Remembrances," his third one-man show at SM Megamall's Gallery Nine (June 29-July 8; tel. 687-7302). This latest collection echoes the artist's newfound freedom and is as much a showcase of his superb skill at figurative representation as it is a sensitive and sentimental journey into rediscovered territories.

Nature as inspiration

Galura, 34, was born and raised in Bacolor, Pampanga, long before Pinatubo's volcanic wrath altered Central Luzon's landscape. Nature was an early source of inspiration for the artist who, as a young boy, enjoyed playing in the wide rice fields, basking in the greenery that stretched endlessly in all directions.

Galura recaptures these landscapes in a series of paintings that will surely evoke memories of idyllic childhoods, youthful adventures and man's peaceful communion with his environment.

Technical skill

In his new works, Galura's technical skill at watercolor painting is very much evident, particularly in his still lifes, random objects strewn together in perfectly calculated compositions that evoke an eerie sense of hyper-reality, at once confusing and taunting the viewer to ask whether it is a painting or a photograph.

Indeed, Galura's works are a showcase of masterful technique in a medium that remains largely unpopular even among the more skillful artists.

"Painting with watercolor is like playing a game," Galura muses. "You have to wait for that exact moment when the mixture is perfect before you allow it to flow."

Apparently, Galura's technique is also a philosophy of life. He knows that this is the exact moment in his life when he needs to heed his own artistic calling.

Of course, no one can be happier than Suzette, his wife of seven years, with whom he now has the time and luxury of taking long morning walks. The couple hopes to have a baby soon, definitely their biggest and most important collaborative art project yet.

Lyrical . . .

From page D2

gouache, pen and ink, colored chalk, oil crayon, pencil and charcoal, scratch technique, and paper relief. His is a fascinating world ranging from gray monochrome to swirls of pastels, candy colors, dark hues, and pitch-black with yellow scratching.

Schumacher is the most monochromatic of the three, using mostly various shades of brown, but also white, black and blue, in his gouaches and aquatints. Color and form may be important to painting, but what are most crucial in his works are line and the element of chance. His works look unfinished, but then each piece is supposed to be an ongoing process.

Thieler uses silkscreen ink, oil and gouache to create layered planes and diaphanous splashes of colors. Unusual for an exponent of Art Autre, he seems to have carefully composed or imposed a design on each piece, so that a strange tension surfaces. His works appear to be the most developed of the three, also the most elegant and least aggressive.

Schultze's pieces carry titles such as "Minotaur," "The Violet Walker," "Tree Figures," but, of course, we don't see those figures there. That doesn't detract from their beauty, however, but rather adds to their fascination.

It's refreshing to contemplate a piece of art, for once, without having to think of some statement or message.

Sa ika-anim na taon ng "Kaya Mo, Kid!"
muling maipapakita ang husay ng kabataang Pilipino
sa larangan ng sining.

Kaya mahal naming mga magulang at guro,
muli naming inaasahan ang inyong pagtangkilik sa

Sabi ng Jollibee
Kapayapaan, Kaya Mong Ilarawan, KiD!
Painting Contest

PAANO SUMALI:

Ang paligsahang ito ay bukas sa mga mag-aaral ng mababang paaralan, public at private, mula 7 hanggang 12 na taong gulang.

May dalawang kategorya ang paligsahan:
Category A: Oil-based medium - maaaring gumamit ng oil pastel lamang
Category B: Water-based medium - maaaring gumamit ng isa sa mga sumusunod:
a) water color b) acrylic c) water soluble colored pencil d) gouache

Ang tema ng contest ay **"Kapayapaan, Kaya Kong Simulan!"**
Bawat contestant ay lilikha ng painting na nagpapakita kung paano niya sisimulan ang kapayapaan sa tahanan o pamayanan.

Gawin ang painting sa isang 15" x 20" illustration board.

Ipadala ang entry sa pinakamalapit na Jollibee store kasama ng Official Entry Form, na makukuha sa mga paaralan at Jollibee stores.

Maaaring magpadala ng entries hanggang August 16, 2002.

Para sa mga detalye, magtanong sa mga paaralan o sa pinakamalapit na Jollibee!
O bisitahin ang aming website: www.jollibee.com.ph

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The essence of Onib Olmedo

GALLERIA Duemila will present "The Quintessential Onib" July 2-15 at 4/L SM Megamall, Building A, Ortigas Complex, Pasig City. The commemorative art exhibit on the occasion of the artist's sixth death anniversary features representative samples of his finest works from his widow's private collection.

The opening night cocktails will be held on July 2, 6 p.m., with Jaime C. Laya, former chair of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and Gina Barte, former director of the CCP Museum, doing the honors at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Onib Olmedo is acclaimed by critics as a leading figurative expressionist artist of his generation. His paintings celebrate the triumph of the human spirit in the face of pain and anguish.

A multiawarded artist, he earned international recognition for his work, winning an honorable mention at the prestigious international art competition in Cagnes Sur Mer, France, in 1992, the very first Filipino to be accorded such a distinction.

Critics have asserted that Olmedo played a significant role in the history of Philippine art. At the summit of his career, he succeeded in elevating the art consciousness of Filipinos to a level that went beyond the appreciation of paintings that were merely ornamental.

Moreover, he continues to exert a vast influence on the young Filipino artists of the 21st century whose works show that they have been inspired by their icon's world view and his distinctively expressionistic style.

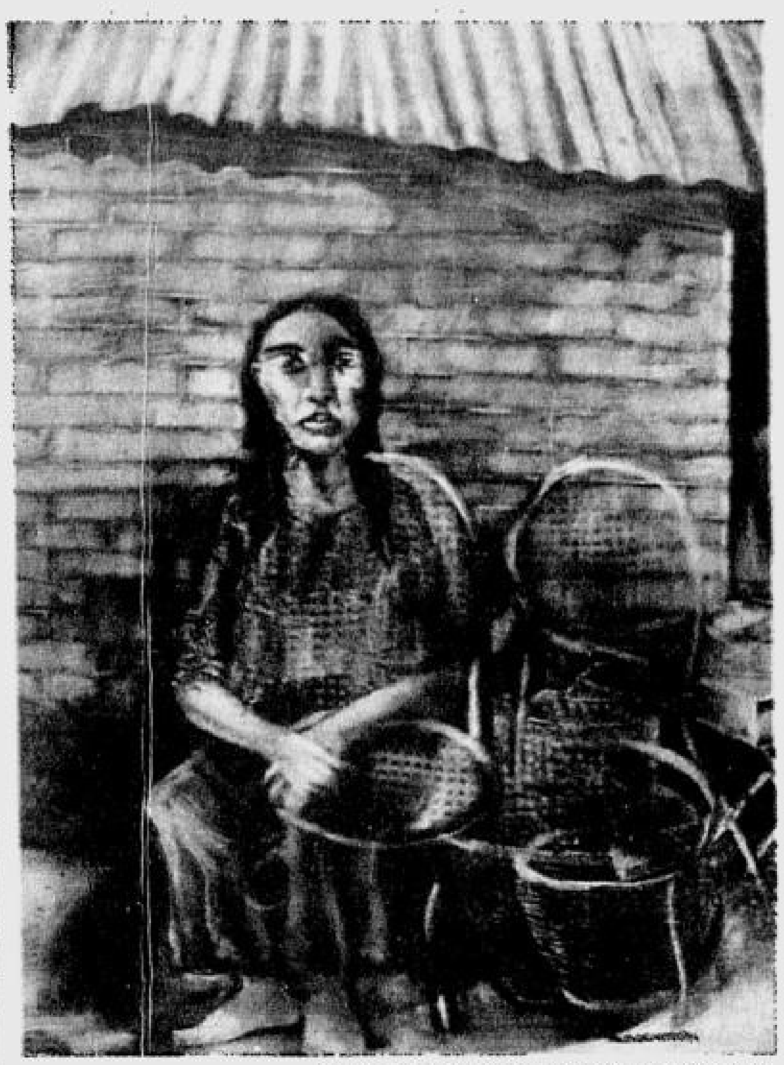
Olmedo became known for the use of inkwash as an artistic medium. Two of his inkwash paintings from the 1990s are featured in the Galleria Duemila art exhibit.

In "The Long Wait," Olmedo depicts the solitary figure of an old woman positioned at the center of the painting amid a background of intricately designed native chairs, carefully laid out bricks and a corrugated-iron roof overhead, a stoic yet vulnerable expression on her countenance. The somber tones of ash and dark gray reflect the melancholic character of the subject, who seems to be wrestling with loneliness, or hunger, or pain, perhaps, and a weary anticipation of an unknown person or event.

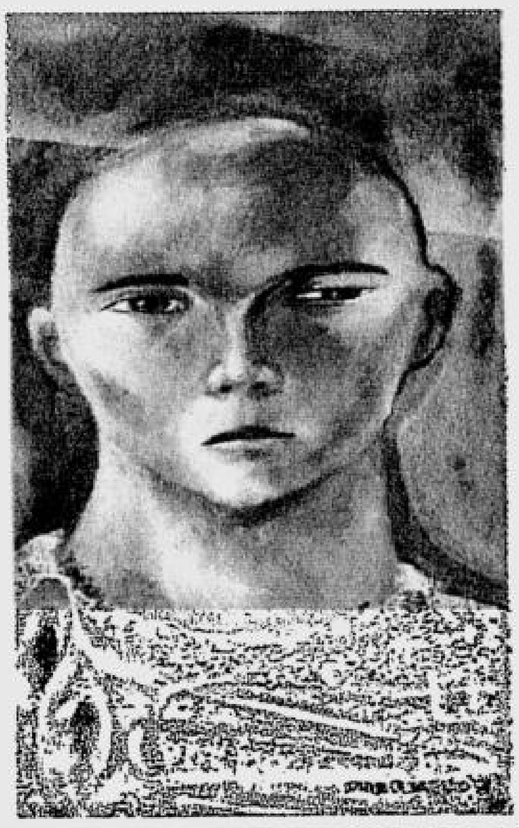
Repeated images

In "Manang Quintet," a weave-like composition of five blind women strumming their string instruments—a common means of livelihood for handicapped people in the metropolis—the repetition of images evokes the rhythm of the unheard melody they are playing. Unlike other works where his subjects' emotions are depicted through the use of distorted features, the sentiments of two of the women are obscured by the dark shades they have donned, in a seeming attempt to hide them from view.

He succeeded in elevating the art consciousness of Filipinos to a level that went beyond the appreciation of paintings that were merely ornamental



"THE LONG Wait," ink wash on paper



"KALBO," acrylic on canvas

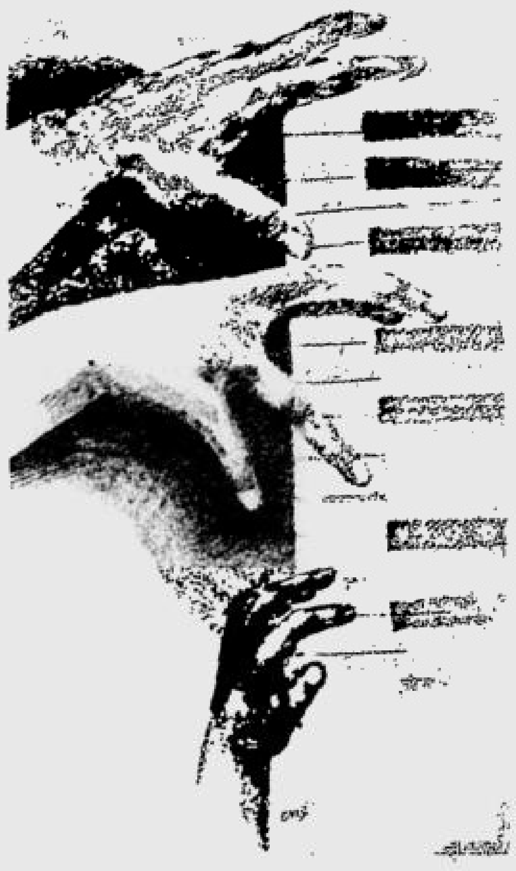
These two ink-wash paintings are representative of Olmedo's black-and-white works that display a literal and figurative transparency. Olmedo strips out the trappings of material embellishments to articulate the fear and the poignancy behind external appearances. He tears off the veneer of flesh and bone to bare the inner being of his subjects—feeling, reflective people who are all subject to the demons of loneliness, melancholy, fear and anguish.

There will be pen-and-ink sketches at the exhibit, some of which were utilized as illustrations for the "Body Book," the second book in a series on traditional Philippine culture, a literary dissection of the human body that has given rise to public perceptions and expectations that hold the key to an understanding of the Filipino psyche.

However, as works repositioned within the context of an art exhibit, Olmedo's sketches go beyond being simply illustrative in nature. They assume a separate aesthetic when viewed as individual works of art.

Human bodies, as Olmedo depicts them, externalize being and give the viewer insights into the Pinoy's soul, with subtle touches of tongue-in-cheek humor and irony. Sans the literary exposition of the book, the sketches may be perceived as independent commentaries on human bodies representing spaces where emotions and feelings resonate.

Thus, poignant contradictions and discordant notes resound in the sketches. One of these, for example, depicts three hands taking turns at fingering a piano's ivory keys. Upon closer inspection, however, one realizes these are the hands of a disabled person with two fingers missing, and that of a young child exhibiting extraordinary virtuosity.



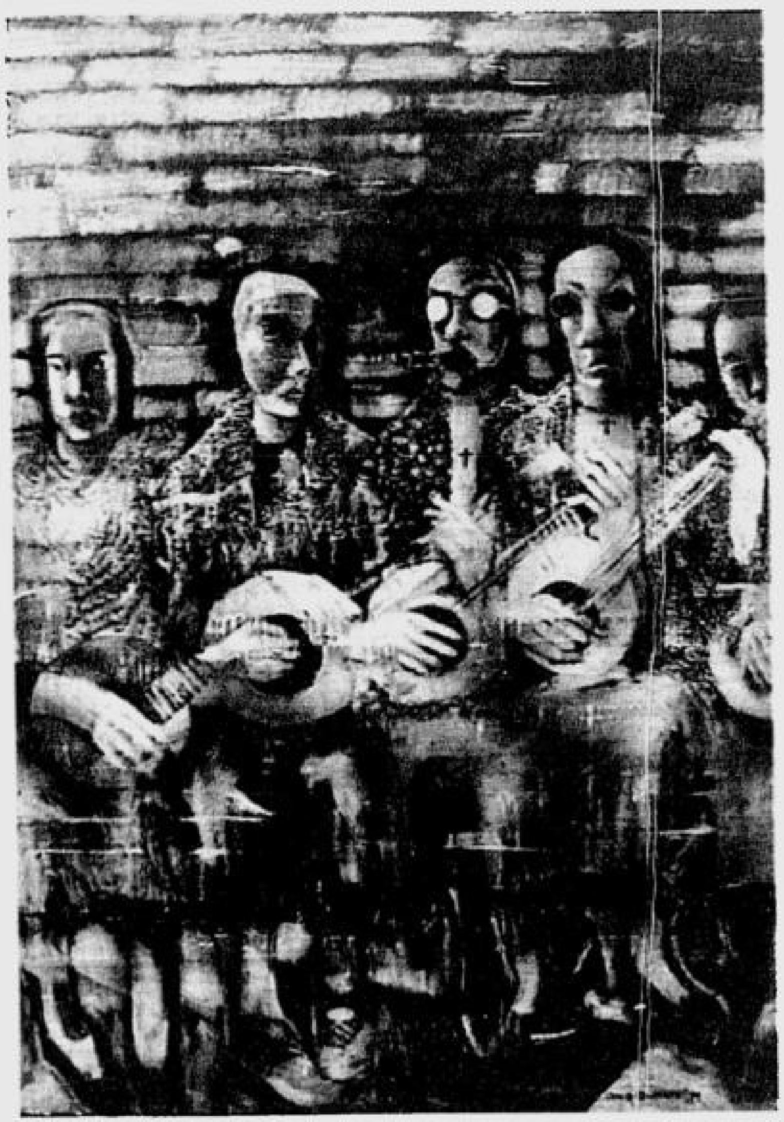
"SAMPUNG Mga Daliri," pen and ink on paper

Another sketch represents a child's seemingly harmless game of *luksong-tinik* as an ominous and intimidating venture. The outlines of three outstretched, formidable-looking hands dominate the pictorial space. In the background, a little girl breaks into a run and prepares for the big leap, with fear written all over her face. The resultant impact on the viewer is one of intense psychological tension.

Total departure

Olmedo's paintings were a total departure from the happy paintings that Filipinos had been exposed to since the 1940s.

The Philippine art scene in the late '60s and the early '70s was dominated by pretty paintings that celebrated the bright and colorful side of Philippine life. The type of art that was then in vogue was genre art, featuring still-lifes and landscape scenes that captured on canvas the charm and enchantment of life in the countryside. Among the favorite subjects then were fiestas, town rituals, festive figures and motifs from indigenous cultures.



"MANANG Quintet," ink wash on paper

Thus, when Olmedo burst upon the Philippine art scene, the uninitiated found his works horrendous and repugnant. Olmedo's career was launched with a series of paintings created in the late '60s and exhibited in 1971 in an art show that revolved around the theme, "Singkong Suka."

In this art exhibit, Olmedo created "sour-vinegar" interpretations of the denizens of Sampaloc, using their faces as vehicles for his psychological probes and explorations of the soul of the common man—the inner turmoil being experienced by his psyche.

In a subsequent art exhibit titled "Beinteng Suka," he further expounded on this theme, creating a virtual gallery of the lost and dispossessed by depicting people who exuded an aura of spiritual isolation and psychic devastation.

Olmedo espoused the tenets of figurative expressionism which, in the '60s and '70s, did not have any appeal for Filipinos. His works were not beautiful in the classical sense of the term. They were characterized by dark, somber and depressing tones. In some of his paintings, Olmedo broke all the rules, disregarding the traditional principles and techniques of composition, color and form.

In the mid- and late '70s, the Filipino public cringed from Olmedo's paintings that portrayed emaciated individuals with gaunt faces and the intense look of the deluded. Their features were extremely grotesque and distorted. In their eyes, viewers could perceive the profound sadness, grief and alienation of people who were experiencing the throes of existentialist angst.

In the '80s and '90s, however, Olmedo's art came of age. He was catapulted into national fame, with his art exhibits enjoying unprecedented success. The adulation shown by the public for Olmedo's work marked a new era in the history of Philippine art when Filipino viewers became more sophisticated and discerning, and began to understand the nuances of art, appreciating paintings for their cathartic value.

Olmedo died in 1996 when he was only 59 years old, but he had reached the apex of his career, earning not only critical acclaim but also commercial success and the public's appreciation for his figurative expressionist art, thus emerging as one of the major Filipino artists of the 20th century.

Visit Galleria Duemila at the Artwalk, 4/L Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Ortigas Complex. Call 634-3261 or 831-9990, telefax 633-6687 or e-mail duemila@mydestiny.net, duemila@info.com.ph. Visit www.galleria-duemila.com.

Earn the power
to move from here...

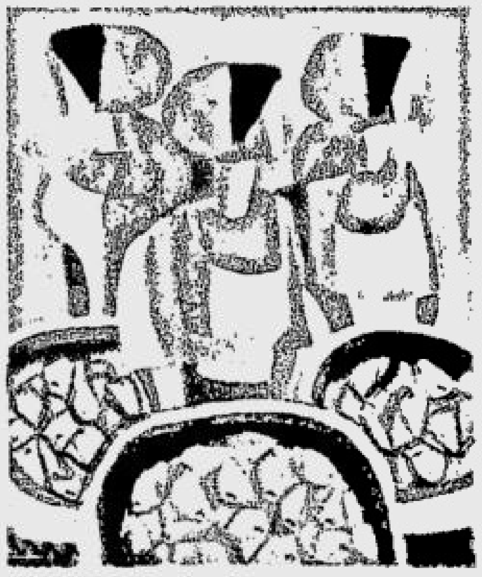
Diaz at Heritage

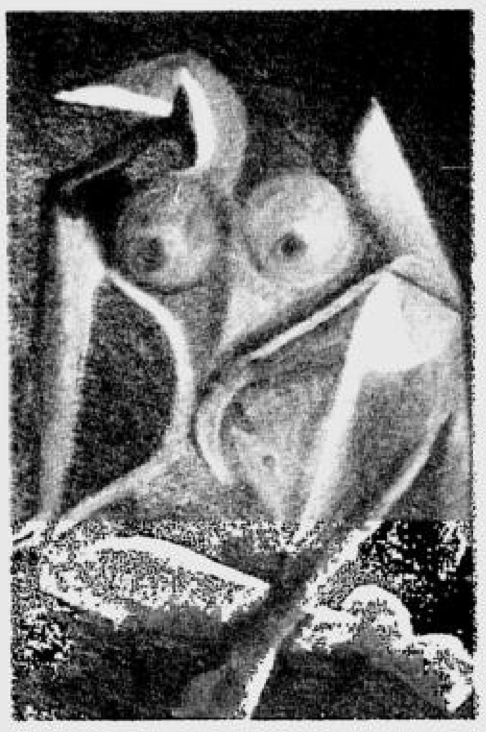
TALENTED young artist JR Diaz presents his sixth solo exhibit, "Reflections," June 19-30 at the Heritage Art Center, 4/L, SM Megamall, Ortigas Center.

The show consists of a bold and colorful mix of impressionistic nature scenes, as well as abstract renditions of madonnas, nudes, female vendors, chessboards and other subjects.

As the show's title implies, the exhibit mirrors the artist's view of life and events in the recent past. His depiction of nature, majestic yet fragile, echoes a plea for its proper care. His vibrant abstractions of female subjects pay tribute to every woman as supportive spouse, devoted mother, luminous muse and tireless worker.

Perhaps inspired by the sobering effect of the Sept. 11 tragedy in New York last year, JR Diaz produced a series of fascinating chessboard paintings, each of which may be viewed as a whole or as a series of abstract paintings in miniature. Again, as in many of his other paintings, the theme and treatment of the chessboard pieces lend themselves to rich subjective interpretations that are bound to intrigue and delight the aesthete.


"MANGO Vendors"


"NUDE Series"

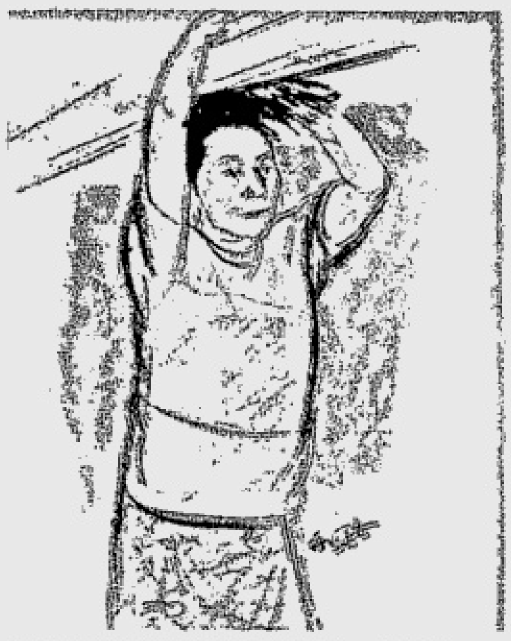
STANDING (L-R) Larry Sy, Raul Isidro, Ramon Orlina, Pandy Aviado, Ral Arrogante, Fidel Sarmiento, Tony Fajardo, Lay Ann Orlina, Anne Pagapulangan and Johnny Perez de Tagle. Seated from left, Danny Alvarez, Charito Bitanga, Susan Fetalvero-Roces, Ester Perez de Tagle, National Artist Napoleon Abueva, Bebeth Gozun and Cynthia Moss

Artists help in fight against pollution

THE CONCERNED Citizens Against Pollution (Cocap) will raffle off works of National Artists and several established artists on July 31 to raise funds in the crusade against pollution.

The works are on exhibit at the Ayala Museum (G/F Old Makati Stock Exchange Bldg., Ayala Avenue, Makati) until June 30. Dubbed "Vision and Reality: The Earth Is in Our Hands," the show features the works of National Artists J. Elizalde Navarro, Napoleon Abueva and Arturo Luz. Also featured are the works of Mauro Malang, Ben Cabrera, Romulo Olazo, Pandy Aviado, Danny Dalena, Raul Isidro, Amor Lamarroza, Ramon Orlina, Fidel Sarmiento, Ral Arrogante, Charito Bitanga, Susan Fetalvero-Roces and Joven Ignacio.

Each raffle ticket costs P10,000. Proceeds will go to the establishment of a materials recovery facility in every barangay in order to implement the mandate of Republic Act 9003, the Ecological Waste Management Act. Call 633-7198.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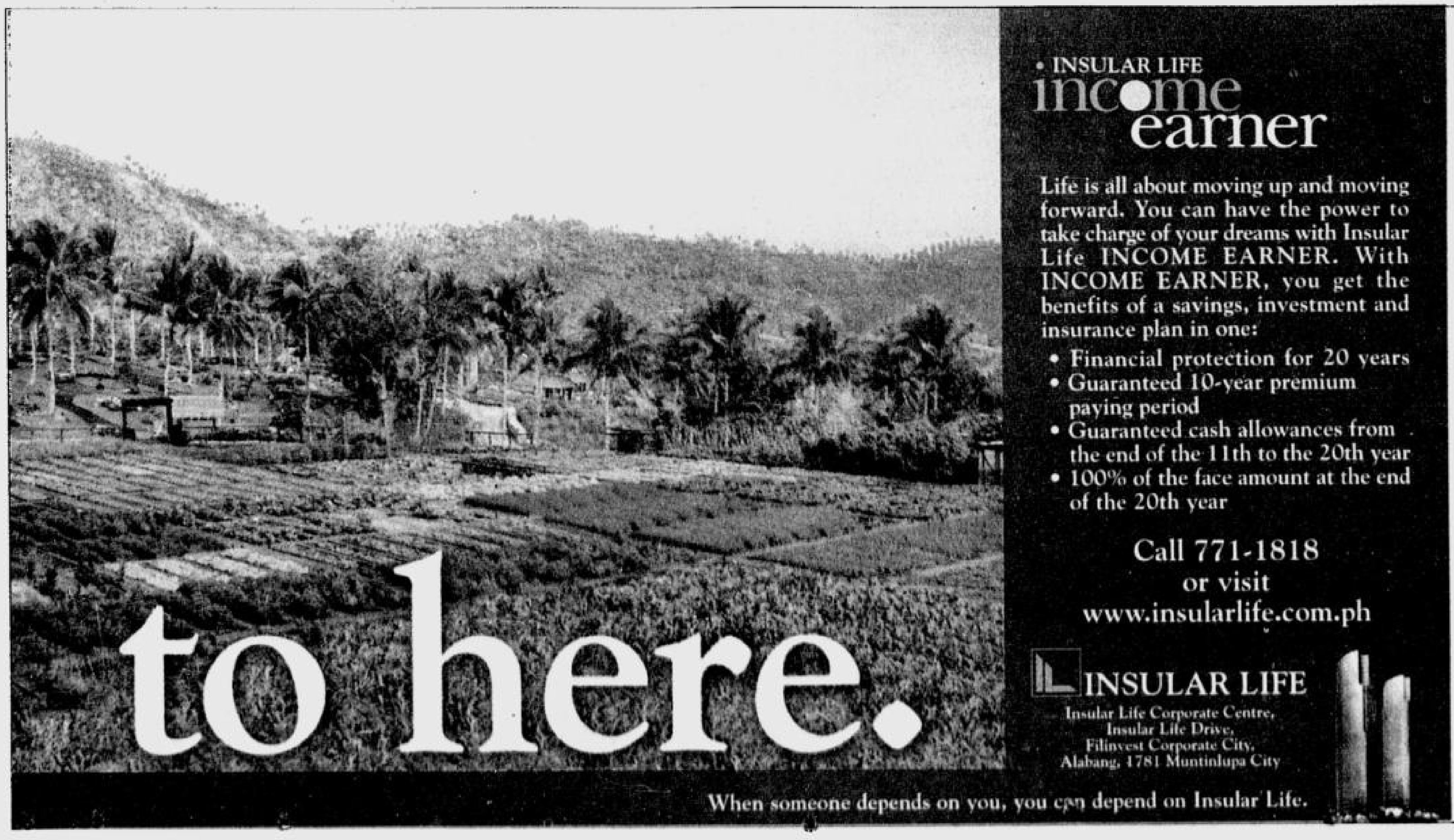
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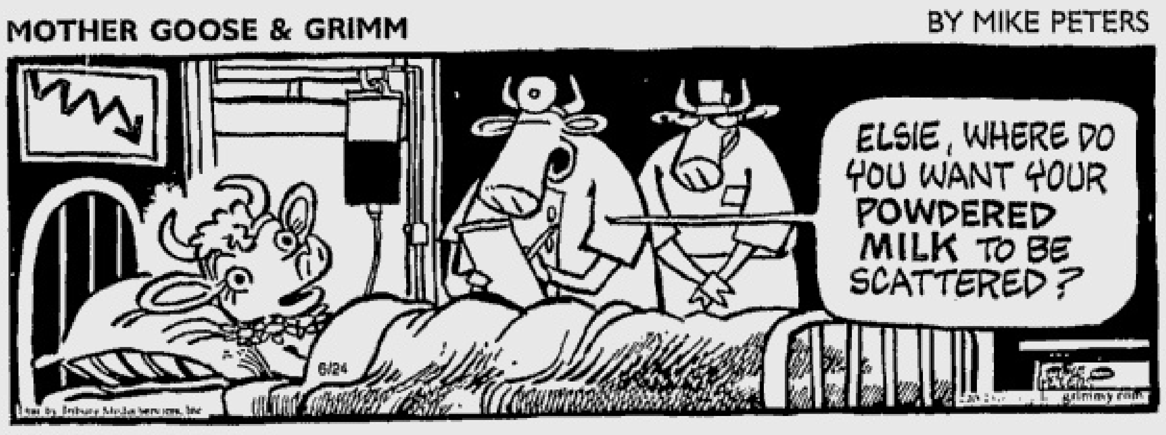
PDI 6/24/02

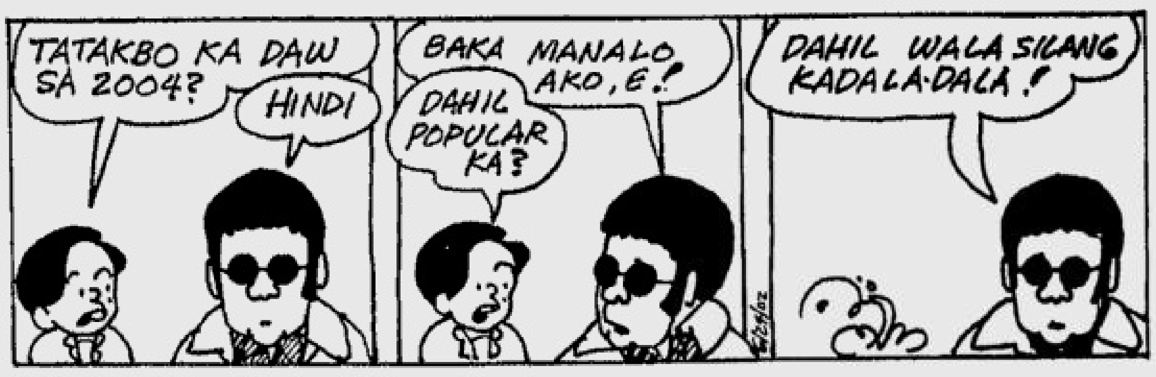
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


ELSIE, WHERE DO YOU WANT YOUR POWDERED MILK TO BE SCATTERED?
6/24

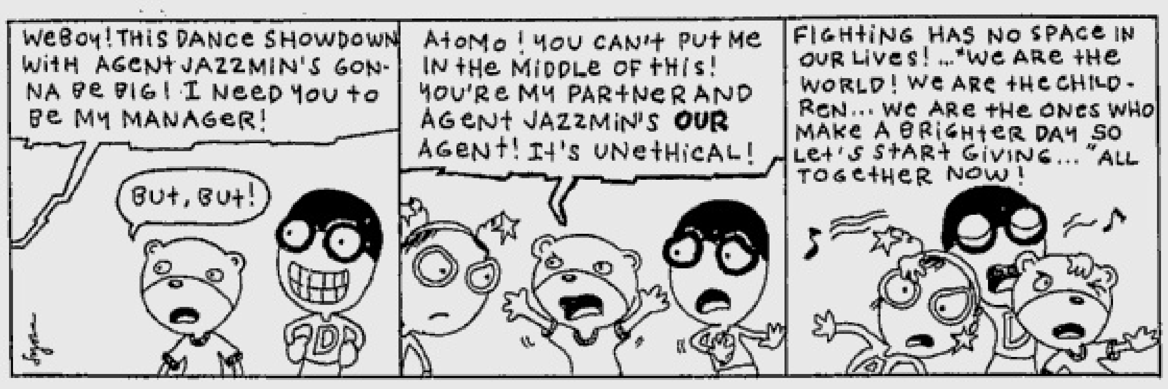
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


TATAKBO KA DAW SA 2004?
HINDI
BAKA MANALO AKO, E!
DAHIL POPULAR KA?
DAHIL WALA SILANG KADALA-DALA!

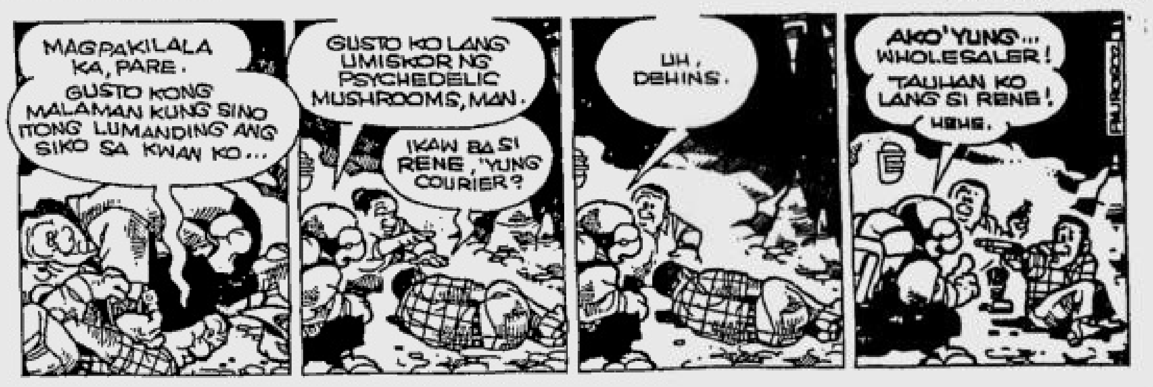
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WEBOY! THIS DANCE SHOWDOWN WITH AGENT JAZZMIN'S GONNA BE BIG! I NEED YOU TO BE MY MANAGER!
BUT, BUT!
ATOMO! YOU CAN'T PUT ME IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS! YOU'RE MY PARTNER AND AGENT JAZZMIN'S OUR AGENT! IT'S UNETHICAL!
FIGHTING HAS NO SPACE IN OUR LIVES! ..."WE ARE THE WORLD! WE ARE THE CHILDREN... WE ARE THE ONES WHO MAKE A BRIGHTER DAY SO LET'S START GIVING..." ALL TOGETHER NOW!

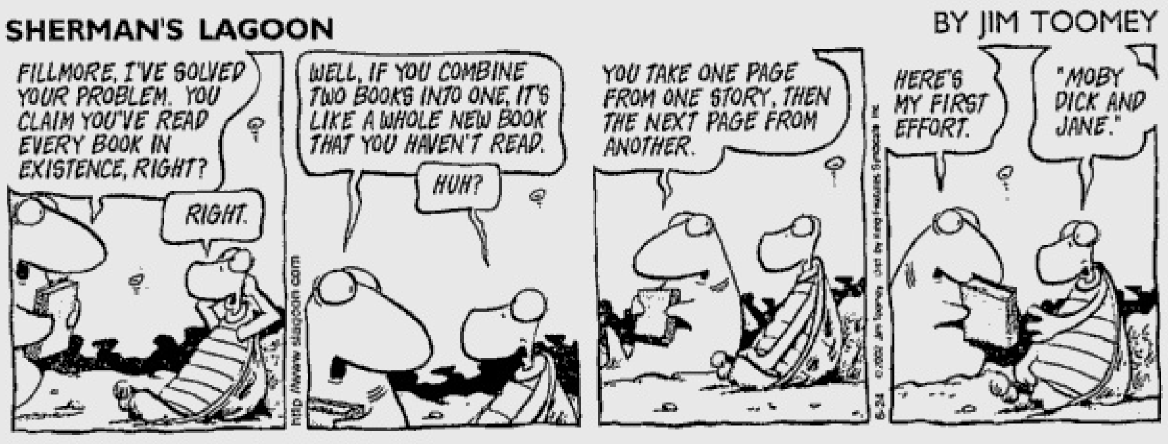
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAGPAKILALA KA, PARE.
GUSTO KONG MALAMAN KUNG SINO ITONG LUMANDING ANG SIKO SA KWAN KO...
GUSTO KO LANG UMISKOR NG PSYCHEDELIC MUSHROOMS, MAN.
IKAW BA SI RENE, 'YUNG COURIER?
UH, DEHINS.
AKO 'YUNG... WHOLESALER! TAUHAN KO LANG SI RENE! HEHE.

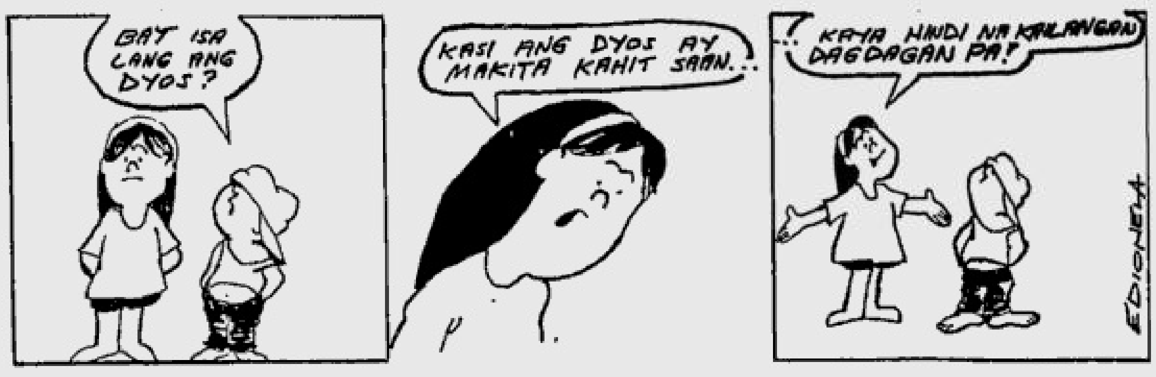
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


FILLMORE, I'VE SOLVED YOUR PROBLEM. YOU CLAIM YOU'VE READ EVERY BOOK IN EXISTENCE, RIGHT?
RIGHT.
WELL, IF YOU COMBINE TWO BOOKS INTO ONE, IT'S LIKE A WHOLE NEW BOOK THAT YOU HAVEN'T READ.
HUH?
YOU TAKE ONE PAGE FROM ONE STORY, THEN THE NEXT PAGE FROM ANOTHER.
HERE'S MY FIRST EFFORT.
"MOBY DICK AND JANE."
http://www.slagoon.com
6-24

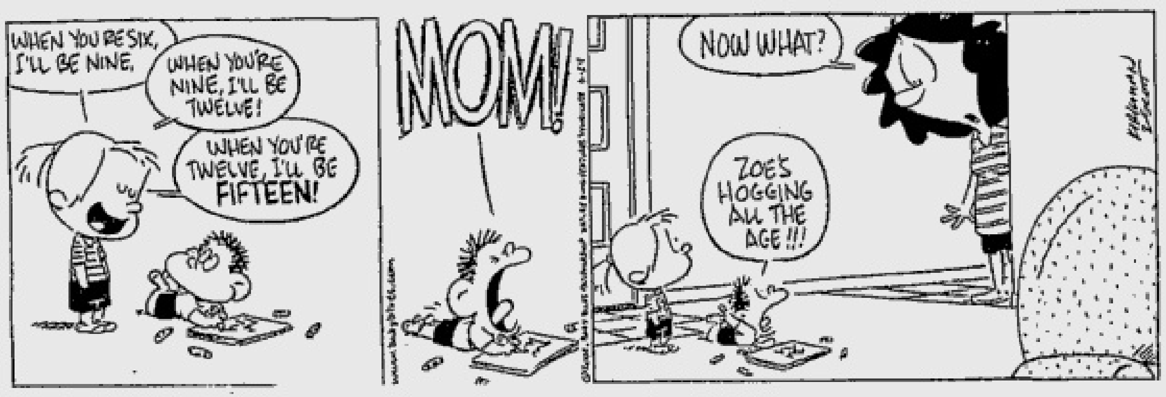
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


BAT ISA LANG ANG DYOS?
KASI ANG DYOS AY MAKITA KAHIT SAAN...
KAYA HINDI NA KAILANGAN DAGDAGAN PA!
EDIONELA

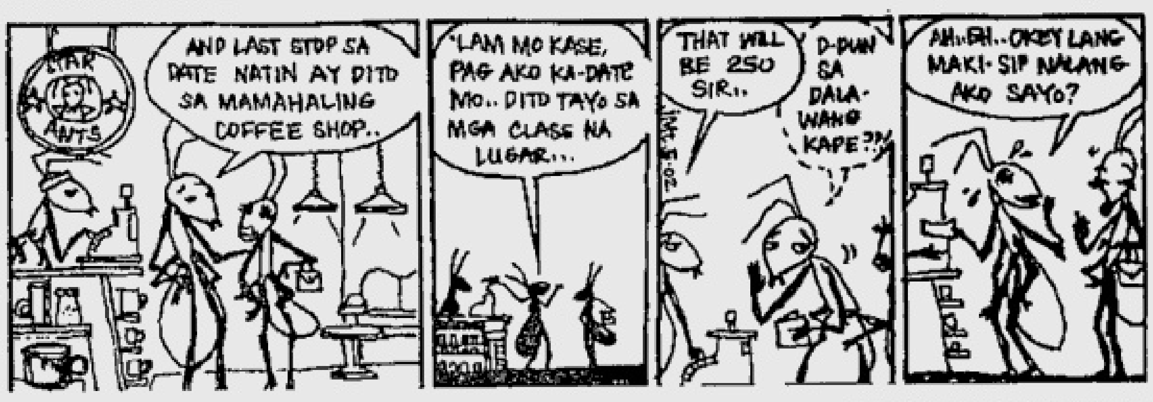
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHEN YOU'RE SIX, I'LL BE NINE.
WHEN YOU'RE NINE, I'LL BE TWELVE!
WHEN YOU'RE TWELVE, I'LL BE FIFTEEN!
MOM!
NOW WHAT?
ZOE'S HOGGING ALL THE AGE!!!

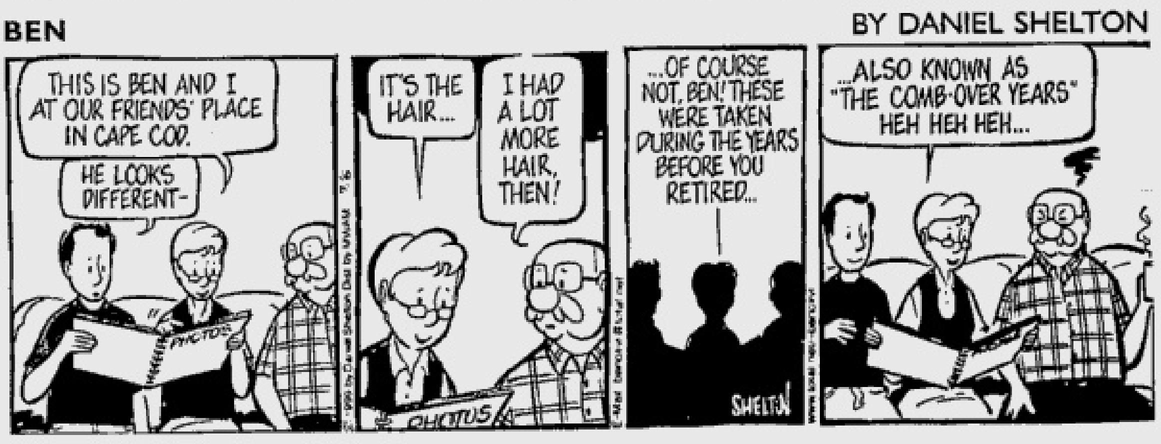
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


STAR ANTS
AND LAST STOP SA DATE NATIN AY DITO SA MAMAHALING COFFEE SHOP..
'LAM MO KASE, PAG AKO KA-DATE MO.. DITO TAYO SA MGA CLASS NA LUGAR...
THAT WILL BE 250 SIR..
D-DUN SA DALAWANG KAPE?!
AH..EH..OKEY LANG MAKI-SIP NALANG AKO SAYO?

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THIS IS BEN AND I AT OUR FRIENDS' PLACE IN CAPE COD.
HE LOOKS DIFFERENT-
PHOTOS
IT'S THE HAIR...
I HAD A LOT MORE HAIR, THEN!
PHOTOS
...OF COURSE NOT, BEN! THESE WERE TAKEN DURING THE YEARS BEFORE YOU RETIRED...
SHELTON
...ALSO KNOWN AS "THE COMB-OVER YEARS" HEH HEH HEH...

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jeff Beck, Joe Penny, Hut Stricklin, Pete Hamill

Happy Birthday: Keep your personal dilemmas to yourself or intervention is sure to escalate any personal problems you have this year. You will experience sudden changes in your financial situation; be careful and budget. You will attract many friends and keep in close contact with relatives and this will lead to closer ties. Your numbers are 12, 19, 23, 27, 39, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't take chances when it comes to your position or career. Being argumentative won't get you anywhere. Keep situations in perspective and be sure to show professionalism.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll have a good eye for investments today. Your ability to make extra cash is evident. Lending or borrowing will be beneficial.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You've heard all the reasons why and why not to go the route you're headed. Confusion is setting in and you just have to make a decision one way or another.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You should be able to make headway with your peers but when it comes to partnerships you had better watch out. Focus on getting ahead and accomplishing your goals.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may feel like taking a bit of a risk but if you do you can expect to face opposition from family. Don't pay for friends just to impress them. You need to be more generous with family, not outsiders.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can count on someone giving you a hard time today. Do your own thing and don't expect anyone to pitch in and help. Disappointment is what will lead to squabbles.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be in the right frame of mind to make positive changes to your life. Added discipline and determination will help you kick a bad habit or finish something that you started some time ago.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): This is a great day to take a second look at the possibilities available to you. It's never too late to make a change. If there is something you really want to do, go for it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be a little anxious today but keep yourself busy and avoid getting into emotional talks with someone who may be trying to pin you down. Take some time to reflect on your past experiences.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You should make it a point to be highly observant. Hidden assets will come in handy. You may be offered the opportunity of a lifetime and you want to be able to take advantage of it.

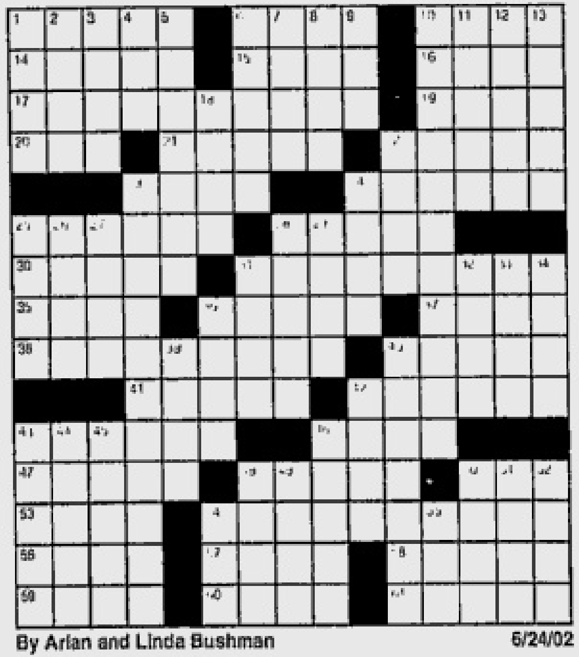
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Keep your professional goals a secret for now. Someone you least expect will mislead you. Getting a different view of a situation will be eye-opening.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Joint ventures will prove to be unsuccessful. You may want to think twice about some of the people you are associating with right now. Listen to a reliable friend.

Birthday Baby: You will be an extrovert, warm-hearted and sympathetic toward others. You will be honest and play by the rules. You will experience a great deal of popularity throughout your life.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Arlan and Linda Bushman
Chicago, IL

6/24/02

ACROSS
1 Disguise element, perhaps
6 Bear hands
10 Eternally
14 Dwight's opponent
15 Stage departure
16 Draw breath
17 Minimalist goal
19 Jacob's twin
20 "X-Files" concern
21 Lacking restraint
22 Etching fluids
23 Keep in check
24 Sofa
25 Web-footed rompers
28 Pavarotti, e.g.
30 Laugh at a joke, e.g.
31 Talk about the good old days
35 Island east of Java
36 Repairman's last name?
37 Fossil fuel
38 Unconvinced
40 Some strings
41 Lustrous black
42 Baby toy
43 Take no notice of
46 Panel of peers
47 Stretch of land
48 Karpov's game
50 Wife or week lead-in
53 Partial prefix
54 Plastic Man trait
56 Fulfill
57 Some containers
58 __ cheers!
59 Circular current
60 Body of laws
61 Full calendars

DOWN
1 Foundation
2 Revise
3 Charity
4 Eminem specialty
5 Comic strip corporate drudge
6 Nutty pie
7 X or Y line
8 Accompanying
9 Barnyard pen
10 Intense excitement
11 Pay a call on
12 Sidestep
13 Employ again
18 Pupil environs
22 Seemingly forever
23 Mutual back-scratching
24 Brief bad mood
25 Spheres
26 Shipbuilder's wood
27 Yarn
28 Austin resident
29 Actor Jannings
31 Jambalaya ingredient
32 Flue problem
33 Summon
34 Additional
36 __-and-dime
39 Piquant
40 College A team
42 Corrode
43 "Who's there?" reply
44 Miserly failing
45 Identified
46 Olympian Owens
48 Advertising award
49 Ranch worker
50 Actress Sorvino
51 Cato's way
52 Woad and anil
54 Shortened shortener
55 Fidel's cohort

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

S	L	E	I	G	H	■	G	A	T	E	P	O	S	T
C	A	N	D	L	E	■	L	E	A	D	U	P	T	O
I	N	K	I	E	R	■	A	R	B	I	T	E	R	S
S	C	I	O	N	■	B	R	A	■	T	U	N	I	S
S	E	N	T	■	B	A	I	T	S	■	P	E	P	E
O	L	D	■	C	O	N	N	O	T	E	■	R	E	D
R	O	L	L	O	N	■	G	R	O	V	E	■	■	■
S	T	E	A	R	N	S	■	S	N	E	A	K	E	R
■	■	■	D	E	I	C	E	■	E	N	T	I	R	E
A	L	S	■	R	E	H	E	A	R	S	■	L	I	P
B	A	T	S	■	S	U	R	F	S	■	C	O	C	A
S	H	I	E	S	■	S	I	T	■	H	E	G	I	S
C	O	L	L	A	P	S	E	■	G	U	A	R	D	S
A	R	T	E	R	I	E	S	■	O	N	S	A	L	E
M	E	S	S	I	E	S	T	■	T	E	E	M	E	D

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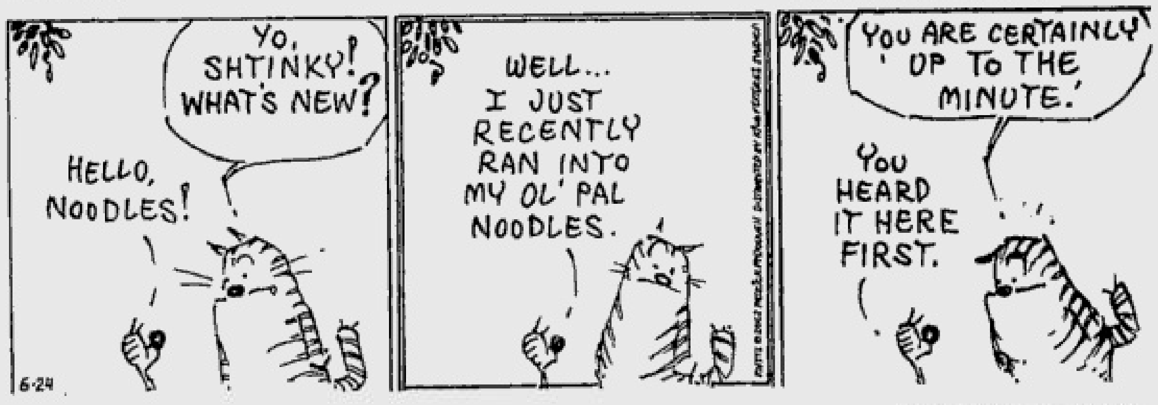
6/24/02

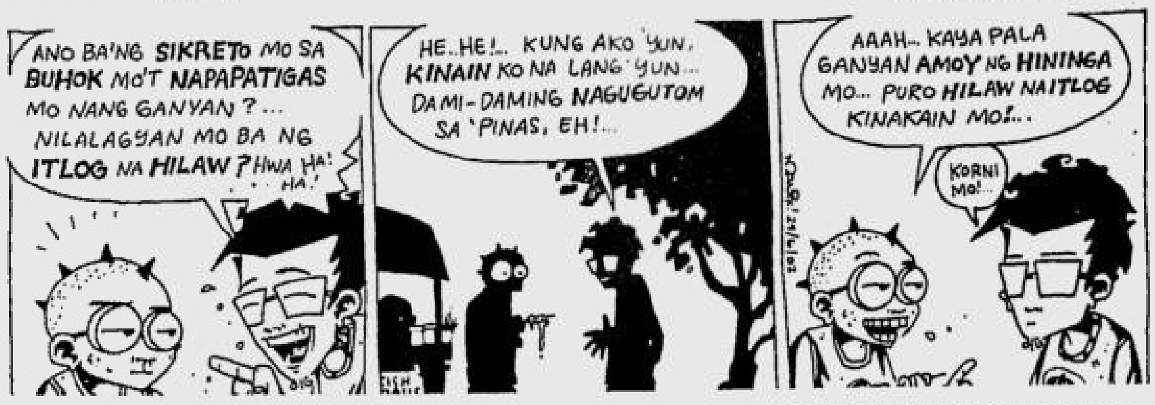
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HELLO, NOODLES!
YO, SHTINKY! WHAT'S NEW?
WELL... I JUST RECENTLY RAN INTO MY OL' PAL NOODLES.
YOU ARE CERTAINLY 'UP TO THE MINUTE.'
YOU HEARD IT HERE FIRST.
6-24

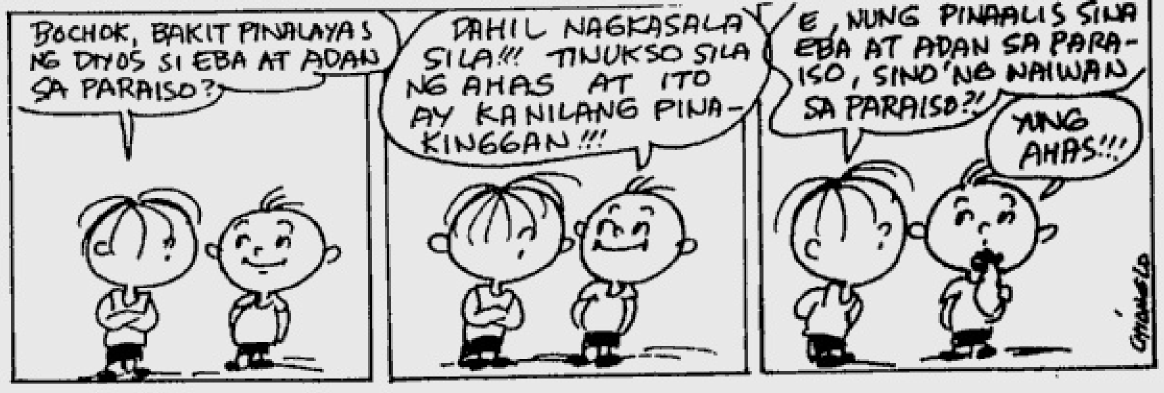
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ANO BA'NG SIKRETO MO SA BUHOK MO'T NAPAPATIGAS MO NANG GANYAN?... NILALAGYAN MO BA NG ITLOG NA HILAW? HWA HA! HA!
HE..HE!.. KUNG AKO 'YUN, KINAIN KO NA LANG 'YUN... DAMI-DAMING NAGUGUTOM SA 'PINAS, EH!..
AAAH.. KAYA PALA GANYAN AMOY NG HININGA MO... PURO HILAW NA ITLOG KINAKAIN MO!..
KORNI MO!..

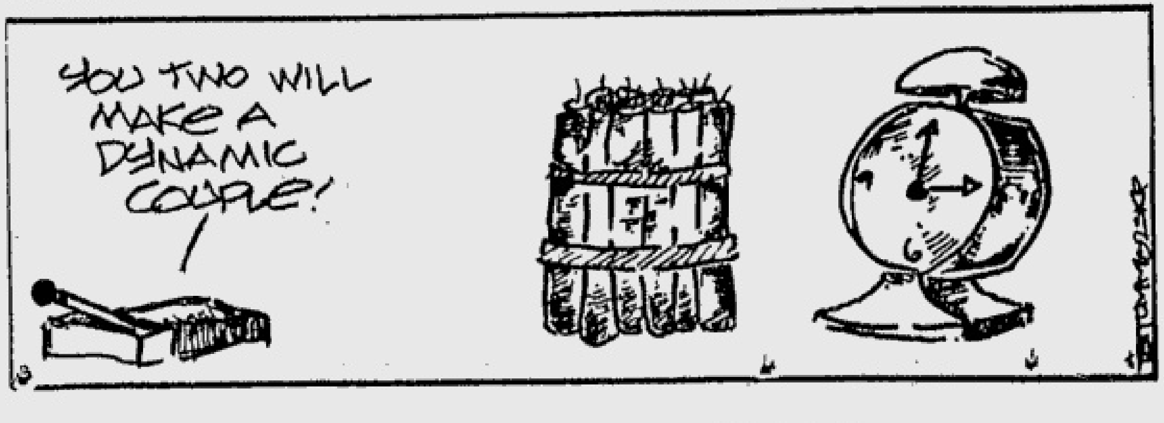
LOVEKNOTS

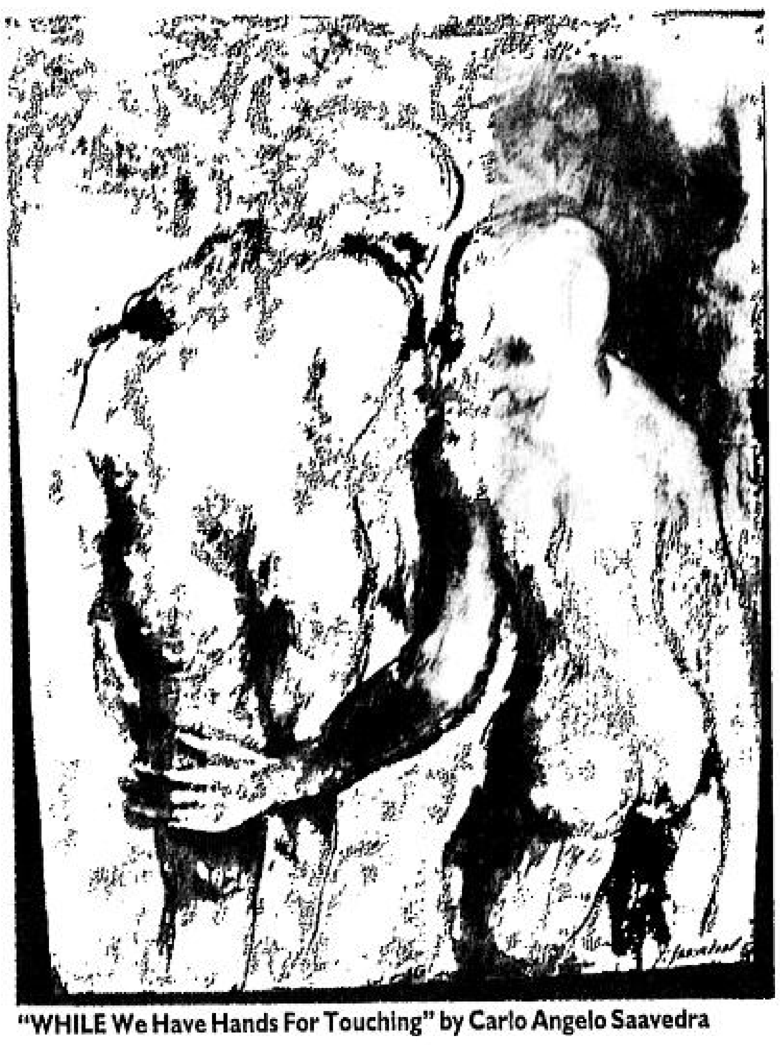
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BOCHOK, BAKIT PINALAYAS NG DIYOS SI EBA AT ADAN SA PARAISO?
DAHIL NAGKASALA SILA!!! TINUKSO SILA NG AHAS AT ITO AY KANILANG PINAKINGGAN!!!
E, NUNG PINAALIS SINA EBA AT ADAN SA PARAISO, SINO'NG NAIWAN SA PARAISO?!
'YUNG AHAS!!!
CHIONGLO

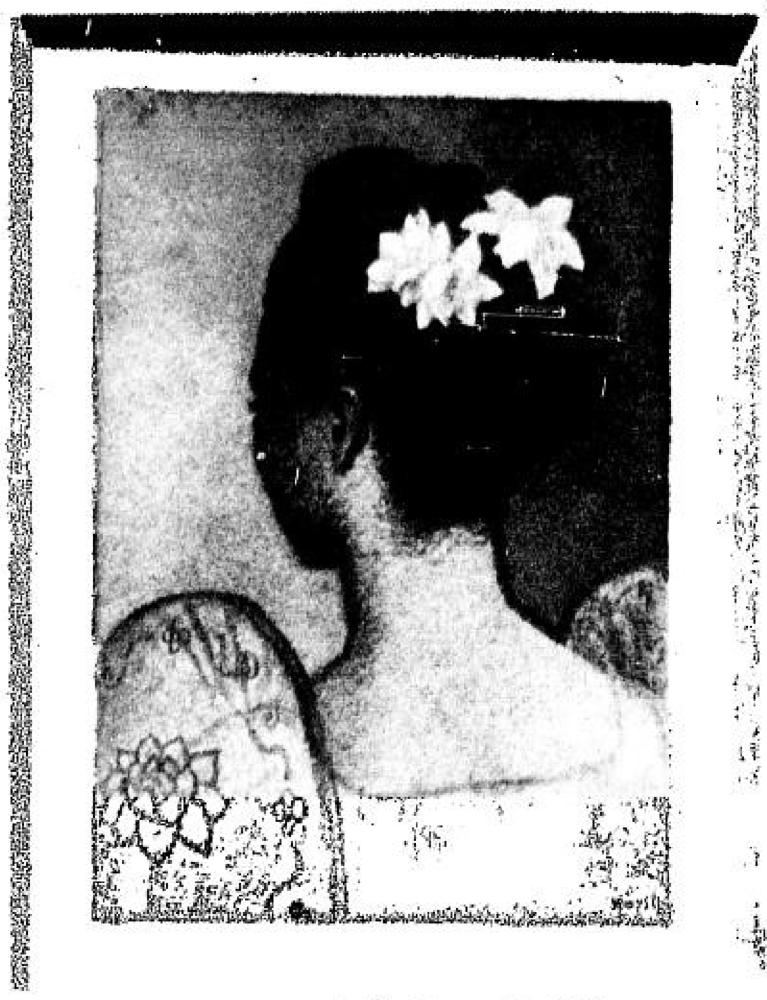
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


YOU TWO WILL MAKE A DYNAMIC COUPLE!



"WHILE We Have Hands For Touching" by Carlo Angelo Saavedra



"ORCHID Festival" (Blue Version) by Gregory Ray Halili

Arts and crafts workshop

INDUSTRIAL artist and painter Victor Bella, a graduate of fine arts of the Maastricht Academy of Visual Arts in The Netherlands, is opening a new series of weekend art courses.

The courses include artistic candle-making with decorative mold-making, decorative painting on glass metal and ceramics, flower sculpture and decorative silicon rubber mold-making.

Artistic candle-making covers figurine, layered, container, gel and floating candles with special features such as aroma therapy, scented, slow-burning, dripless, handpainted and insect-repellent.

Decorative painting on glass, metal and ceramics covers gemstone perfume bottles, floating candle container, canister, mugs and vases.

Silicon rubber mold-making covers figurines, candles, jewelry boxes and picture frames. Flower sculpture includes the creation of non-withering vibrant and colorful flowers in classic and modern styles, using either oven-fireable or air-drying clay. Flowers to be produced are orchids, roses, calla lily, daisies, tulips and sunflowers.

Call 834-7678 or (0917) 757-6690, 10 a.m.-12 nn, 1:30-5 p.m. Mondays to Fridays. Lessons will begin on June 29.

Antonio Luz at the Crucible; Saavedra at Ad Infinitum; Halili at West Gallery

VISUAL ARTS

THE CRUCIBLE Gallery presents the latest works of Antonio Luz at the Crucible Gallery, Artwalk, 4/F, SM Megamall Building A, Mandaluyong City. "My father, the late Alfredo Luz, and his brother Arturo, represented a kind of creative legacy for me, and early on, I had the strange notion that I should, by virtue of association, be an artist," Luz says. The exhibit runs July 6-23. Call 635-6061.

CARLO Angelo G. Saavedra presents his first one-man show, "The Irregulars," June 29, at the Ad Infinitum Gallery, 190 F. Blumentritt St., San Juan. The exhibit features 15 works on paper and 15 on canvas by the up-and-coming young artist educated in humanities at the Ateneo de Manila and music at the University of Santo Tomas. Call 726-9015 or 724-3032.

ARTIST Gregory Ray Halili presents his miniature watercolor paintings. Inspired by the fond memories of his homeland, "Nostalgia II" is on view at the West Gallery, Art Walk, 4/L, SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City, June 27-July 9. Call 634-1284.

MEMORY infuses the works of Pardo de Leon in "Stone Paper Scissors," at Finale Art Gallery, Artwalk,. 4/L, SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City until June 30.

"BANSOY: The Philippine Art of Miniaturizing Trees" opened recently to the public at the Bonifacio Global City. It features the art of miniaturizing trees in Philippine context and will run until June 30.

ARTISTS Mark Vincent P. Matabilas and Olan Ventura team up in "Recent Works," a visual diary of sorts revealing what they find so fascinating at the moment. Their latest works in acrylic and pencil and oil on canvas are on view June 28-July 14 at the Big & Small Art Co., 4/L, Building A., SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Matabilas uses bold figures as portraits and mixes man's imperfections (greed, lust, etc.) with a dash of self-deprecating humor. Ventura is driven by his passion for painting and love for family. Call 687-7425.

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines College of Fine Arts graduates of 2002 present their paintings, installations and conceptual works in the exhibit "UPCFA Thesis Exhibition 2002." The exhibit features Isa Pilapil's "Deus est Machina," Edward Tan's "Perceiving the Obscure," Vince Villarta's "Internal and External Volume of Portrait Sculpture," Carina Altomonte's "Diaries in Copper," Milton Sardenia's "Attached," Elaine Birung's "Focal Tension," Monsee Claravall's "Space—the Final Frontier," Amor Barla's "Simultaneous Narrative," Christine Rojas' "Narrative through Fragmentation," Gertrudis Crisostomo's "Visual and Physical Metaphor through Stockings," Emil Dimar's "Real Painting," Joel Mahilum's "Emotions through Painting," and Francis Feleo's "Modernizing the Face of God." The exhibit runs until Aug. 3 at the GSIS Museum of Art, GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Call 551-1301.

SKYLINE Gallery Restaurant, in cooperation with Gallery Ivydell, presents the one-man painting exhibit of positivism exponent and painter E. R. Tagle at 6 p.m., June 28 at 8/F, Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Open until July 30, the exhibit revolves around various themes of *bayanihan*. Proceeds will benefit children attending free art workshops conducted by Tagle and his artist-friends. Call 899-6358 or (0917) 972-6223.

TO CELEBRATE the 135th Canada Day, the Canadian Embassy in cooperation with the Ayala Cinemas will screen "Creme glacee, chocolat et autres consolations," 7:30 p.m., June 29, Greenbelt, Cinema 1, Makati City. "Creme glacee, chocolat et autres consolations," a masterpiece of Canadian filmmaker Julie Hivon, explores friendship, love and family tribulations in young middle-class Quebec.

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Marcel Antonio in Singapore

FIGURATIVE expressionist painter Marcel Antonio will open a major solo exhibit in Singapore on June 29, 3 p.m., at the Jasmine Gallery of Fine Art in Paragon Mall, Orchard Road.

The show, which opens during the Singapore Arts Festival month, runs until July 14. Guest of honor will be the Philippine's Consul General to Singapore Minda Cruz.

Marcel collectors span a varied cross-section among art enthusiasts. His themes are uniquely evocative, if somewhat uncommon.

For his show, he has chosen the title "Marchen," a German word for fables. Several of the works are inspired by Southeast Asian fables, while others are modern-day fables based on the artist's own personal experiences.

For "Marchen," Marcel has put together 20 of his major paintings done in the past twelve months. Several of the works are 36" x 48" or 48" x 60" while the rest are of sizes 24" x 30" or 24" x 36".

The title seems to suggest a sense of timelessness, of suspended time-qualities that have been the hallmark of Marcel's recent work.

Folly of love

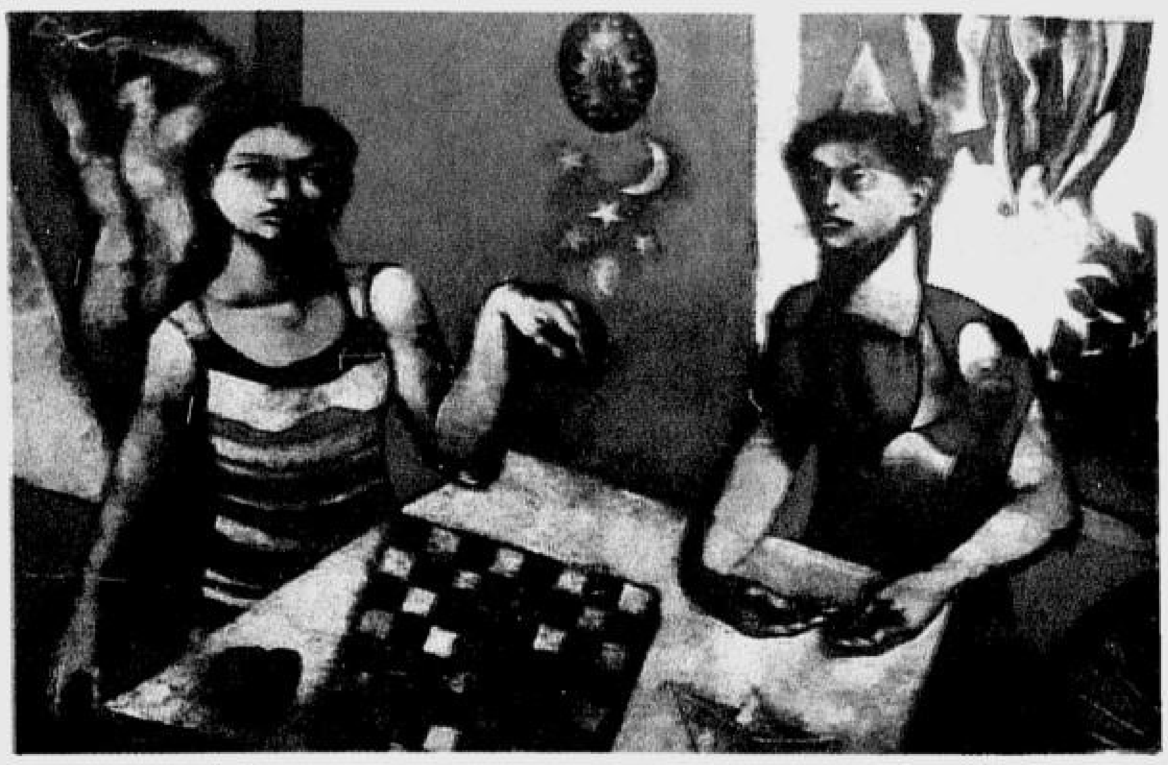
A favorite theme of the artist is exploring love's parting or the folly of love. "The Mating Season" has a young woman asking Fate through the cards what it has in store for her, as the harlequin (symbolic of the artist or the viewer) is all bundled up and ready to go.

"The Theory of Love" shows a young woman playing with white balls (symbolic of a person's feelings and emotions). One of them has fallen and cracked while a proud harlequin stands by the window.

"The Song of Dawn" has a young woman pining away at the bright lights of the city as a figurine of a mermaid, (which, in Freudian analysis, symbolizes an attractive woman trapped in her condition) standing by her coffee table.

"The Sun King" has a proud, almost Apollo-looking young man ending up like a fool as he loses the one woman he cares for. "Black Hearts" shows how an attractive young woman can be pressured and affected by society or by the artist himself.

"The Horn Fruit" is from a fable that has counterparts in Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines, about a boy who falls in love with a beautiful but frivolous princess. The boy uses a bag of magic tricks to help him impress the princess. Instead of falling in love with him, however, the princess begins to covet the boy's bag of magic tricks and, as he sleeps, the princess decides to steal it.


"THE SUN King," oil on alkalyd

The scene depicted in Marcel's painting is that exact moment when the princess is reaching across the boy's body for his bag, straddling the boundary between the crime and the intent. The painting could thus be seen as a commentary on morality and the inner essence of individuals, the princess representing a new Eve.

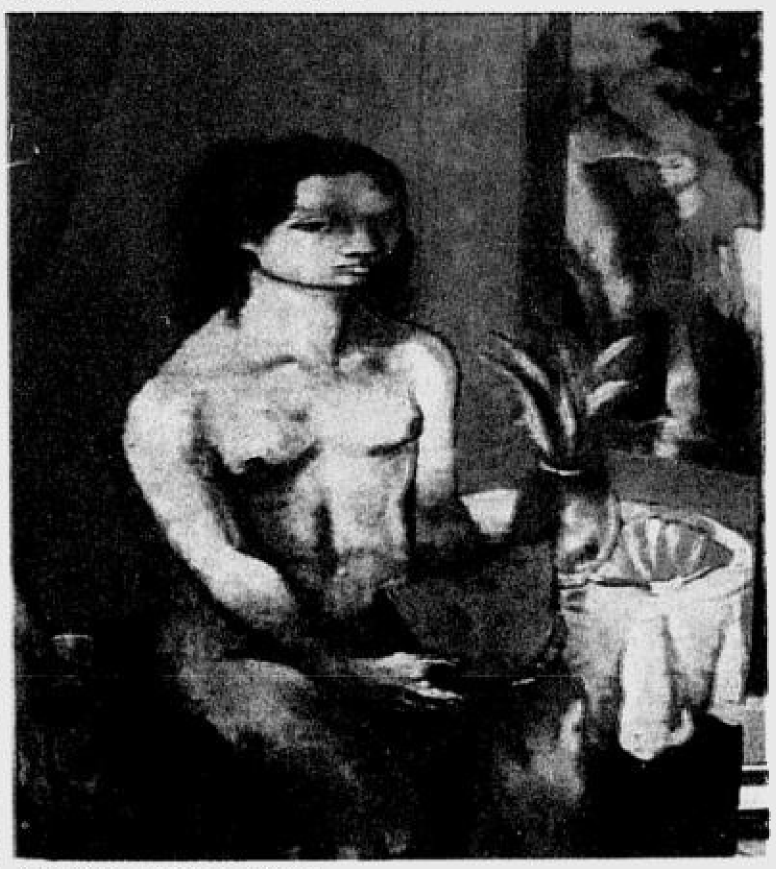
"Tropiko" is the artist's expressionist statement on the beauty of the tropics and how one copes with the sizzling, scorching summer heat. There is a nude woman cradling a red juicy watermelon on a hot summer night. There is a robust cacti plant, a ready guitar and a shell—lush symbols of the good life found in the idealized tropics.

Marcel is the eldest son of Angelito Antonio and Norma Belleza, two of the more renowned artists in the Philippines.

Among his influences are Count Stanislas Klossowski de Rola (more popularity known as the artist Balthus), Lucien Freud, R.B. Kitaj, Picasso, Chagall, Max Beckmann and Francis Bacon from the visual arts.

A voracious reader, he likes reading Henry Miller, Yukio Mishima, the poet Pablo Neruda, among others.

For inquiries and more information about the Singapore show, please visit www. marcelantonio. com.


"TROPIKO," oil on alkalyd

Balayan row ends

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has lifted its cease-and-desist order on the construction of a McDonald's fast-food outlet at the Balayan Church grounds in Balayan, Batangas. The Church is considered a national treasure. Previously, the National Historical Institute had asked the construction plan to be revised to ensure that the surroundings are enhanced, not defaced. The outlet complied with the requirements, so it will hold a soft opening today, in time for the celebration of the Balayan town fiesta.

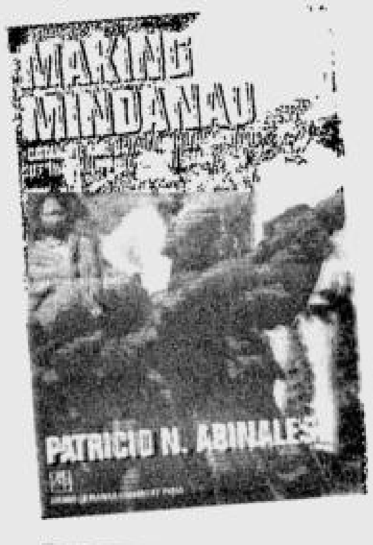
Ateneo titles on sale

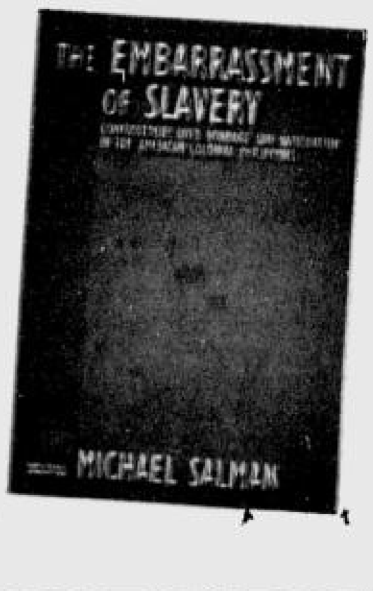
THIS year, the Ateneo de Manila University Press turns 30, and to celebrate this special occasion, all Press titles will be on sale at 30-percent discount on June 24-29 at the Press offices.

Classics like Scott's "Barangay," Ileto's "Pasyon and Revolution," Lumbera's "Tagalog Poetry," Rafael's "Contracting Colonialism" and Schumacher's "The Propaganda Movement"; novels by Arceo, Landicho, Lingat, Madrid; short story collections by Guzman, Matute, Patron; poetry collections by Añonuevo, Antonio, Regalado; pioneering studies by scholars Hau ("Necessary Fictions"), Abinales ("Making Mindanao"), Alejo ("Generating Energies in Mount Apo"), as well as best-selling titles like Fernandez's "Leaving the Priesthood," Carandang's "Filipino Children under Stress," Legarda's "After the Galleons" and Arcilla's "Introduction to Philippine History," are just some of the books which will be on sale.

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for libraries to update and complete their collections of Filipiniana titles, and also to encourage reading among the general public

Catalogs and price lists are available upon request from the Ateneo Press at tel. 426-5984/6601 local 4612/3/6; fax 426-5909, or e-mail unipress@admu.edu.ph.





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    - c. JOIN THE NESTLÉ TXT CLUB. Send "CLUB FULL NAME AGE GENDER" (separated by spaces) to 2354 (Ex. CLUB Ana Cruz 24 F) and you automatically get 500 points. Registration can be done only once. You can get additional 200 points for each Nestlé TXT Club Bonus Question you answer after registration.
2. Download rates are P2.00 for plan subscribers and P2.50 for pre-paid. Winners will be notified via text. If you want to know the top five (5) scores for the day, the week, and the overall race, send "RANK" to 2354.
3. You can win only once per category. If you become the highest scorer for the second time for the daily or weekly races, the prize will be given to the next highest scorer.
4. All accumulated scores will be totaled for weekly and overall races.
5. Employees of Nestlé Philippines, Inc., Publicis-AMA Inc., Globe Telecom, Chikka.com, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are not eligible to join the promotion.
6. Winners will receive a call from Nestlé Consumer Services with Tel. No. 898-0061. If you have any questions, you may also call this number. Please allow 5 days after July 8 for verification of winners.
7. Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0493 series of 2002. This amends the previous ads.

For more details, visit http:/www.nestle.com.ph/almusal

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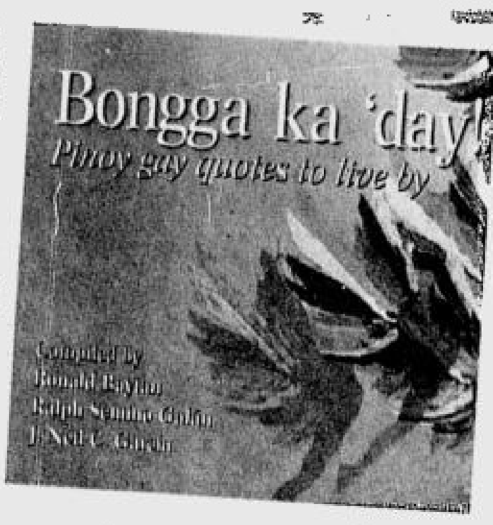

Oh, to be happy and gay!

NOT TOO happy perhaps, but definitely gay. As the quotations below will prove, being homosexual can be bittersweet, the tentativeness of the taste reflecting the tentativeness of one's sexuality and one's relations. The biting but poignant condition of homosexuality is more than presented in "Bongga ka 'Day! Pinoy Gay Quotes to Live By." Published by Milflores and edited by Ronald Baytan, Ralph Semino Galan and J. Neil C. Garcia, the book collects gems of wisdom, pithy sayings and hilarious lines that may either be totally or even remotely connected to the gay condition. The quotes are not necessarily uttered or written by self-confessed homosexuals, but are included because they are part and parcel of the gay lifestyle and vocabulary. (How else explain the inclusion of ambiguous lines by Jose Garcia Villa, Nick Joaquin, Gilda Cordero Fernando, Edith Tiempo, and Ophelia Dimalanta? *Na-out sila*

OH/ p.E2

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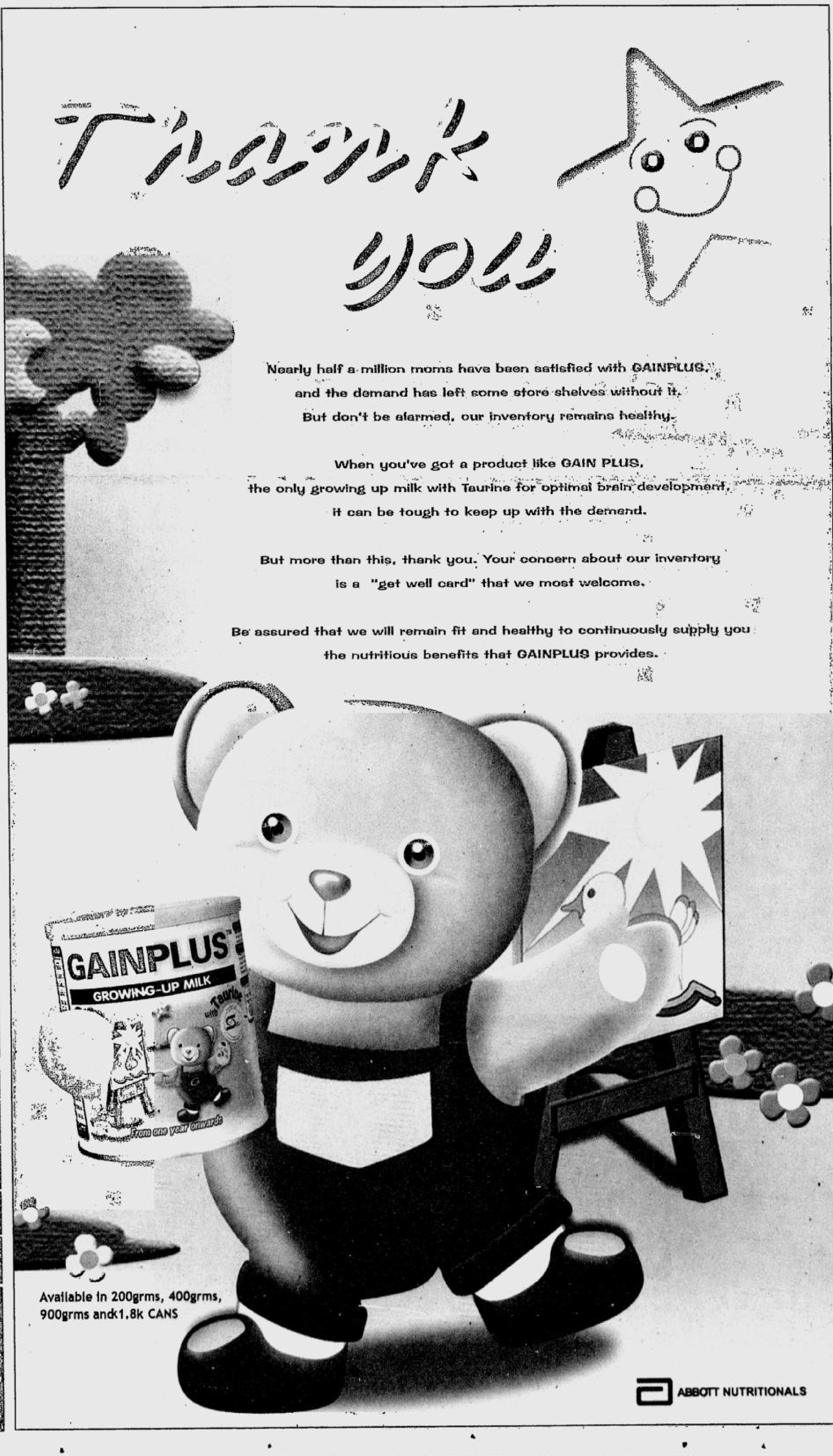

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Oh, to be happy and gay!

From page E1

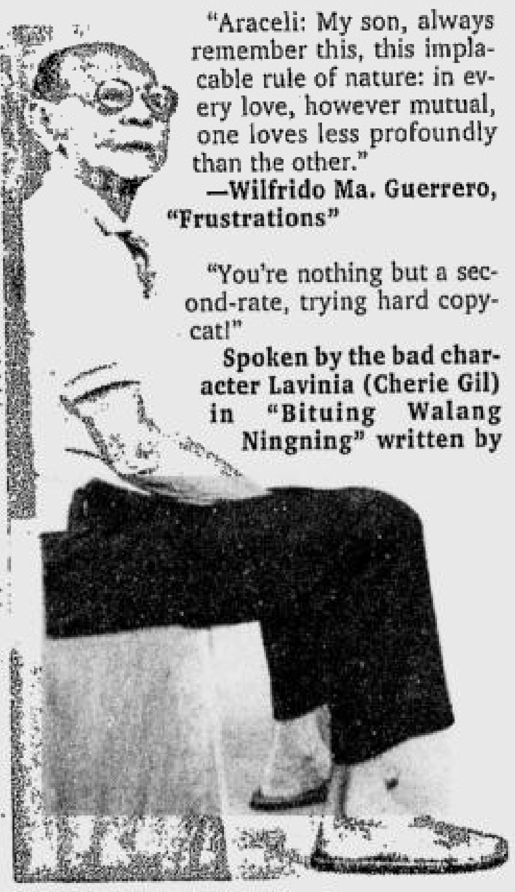
nang hindi oras!) Bound to be the definitive "Pink Book" of the new millennium, "Bongga Ka 'Day!" may shock and infuriate, amuse and delight—whichever, it is bound to make your day "bongga"!

"By the power of Gayskull, I am She-Man, Mistress of the Universe. *Diyuskuday*!"
—Joey de Leon's cross-dressing fantasy character in spoof "She-Man: Mistress of the Universe"

"God, let him love me even as I love him!"
—Jose Garcia Villa, "Wings and Blue Flame"

"I believe that a sophisticated liberated person is at the peak of his development as a human being when he is a bisexual."
—Zeneida Amador, Philippine Panorama

"The only reason I (saw a psychiatrist) was that I needed an authority to tell my parents I enjoyed being gay!"
—Louie Cruz, Asiaweek


PROFOUND Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero

"Araceli: My son, always remember this, this implacable rule of nature: in every love, however mutual, one loves less profoundly than the other."
—Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero, "Frustrations"

"You're nothing but a second-rate, trying hard copycat!"
Spoken by the bad character Lavinia (Cherie Gil) in "Bituing Walang Ningning" written by Orlando Nadres Jr.

CHERIE Gil as bad girl Lavinia in "Bituing Walang Ningning"

Rita Gomez: "Here's your question, *hija*. Are you still a virgin?"
Maribel Lopez: "If I say I still am, can I bring home the crown tonight?"
Rita: "Good answer!"
Maribel: "What about you, ma'am, are you still a virgin?
Rita: "*Hija*, I have five children with five different fathers, what do you call that, Immaculate Conception?"
—Binibining Pilipinas Pageant, 1982

"Relax, Inday. It's me—Joey Sands. You can take off your dress and show me your tits—I'm not interested."
—Jessica Hagedorn, "Dogeaters"

"Okay, if you must know, *basta ang alam ko, pag napapadaan ako noon sa mga* boutiques *at may nakikita akong* evening gown, *sasabihin ko sa sarili ko, bagay 'yan sa akin. Sa* women's section *ng* SM, *may nakikita akong* bathing suit, *sasabihin ko,* I'll look very sexy in that. *Pero mula nang makilala kita, nag-iba na. May nakita akong* micro-mini, *sabi ko, bagay kaya kay* Aleli? *May nakita akong* bra; size 36 *kaya ito?* See, *pati ang* size *ng* bra *mo, alam ko. Nakalimutan ko ang sarili ko nang dahil sa 'yo.*"
—Rodolfo Lana, Jr., "Kuwan"

"Pity the woman who, in some moment of temporary madness, convinces herself that if she is nice enough—then she can change a fairy into a lover."
—Jose Javier Reyes, Philippine Daily Inquirer

LIBERATED Zeneida Amador

"A gay's way to a man's heart is through bottles of beer."
—Honorio Bartolome de Dios, "Lalaki"

"I think the seduction is the one that matters more than the sperm. Because afterward, you'd like to kick the partner out of bed for not being able to talk with you."
—Anton Juan, Philippine Daily Inquirer

"*Binabae, biniboy, bakla, bading,* gay. *Nagpapakatotoo ka, pero ang nakikita nila, pagukukunwari.*"
—Dolphy playing Markova in the movie of the same title; written by Clodualdo del Mundo, Jr.

"In this lifetime, I'm happy being me."
—James Cooper, Sunday Inquirer Magazine

"*Bueno*, let's get it over with. It's a long walk to the depot. *Tama na ang* sophistication-sophistication."
—Rolando S. Tinio, "Valediction Sa Hillcrest"

"This is a crazy planets!"
—Stella Strada's suicide note

"I who am mostly half-true,
Some neither-nor half-breed, you ask,
Have I ever really been touched
By life...?"
—Ophelia Alcantara-Dimalanta, "A Modern-Day Tiresias Speaks"

TRUE to him/herself, Dolphy as "Markova"

Finally, a Pinoy pink book!

VIRGINAL Maria Isabel Lopez

JOEY de Leon proclaims he's a she.

"When the curtains are flung back to let the harsh light in, the bed looms empty. I am finally all I have.
—Jaime An Lim, "Short Time"

"*Ako ay ganito, kaya hanggang dito na lamang, at maraming salamat.*"
—Spoken by the character Fidel in "Hanggang Dito Na Lamang At Maraming Salamat" by Orlando Nadres Jr.

"Bongga Ka 'Day" will be launched on June 26, 9 p.m., at the Penguin Bar, Remedios Circle, Malate, Manila.

'Falsettos' sings of love and family

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

JOSHUA Ramirez (seated, second from left) plays the confused bar mitzvah kid. Others in the cast are (standing, from left) Jenny Zamora, Lily Chu, Rito Asilo, Marco Aytona and Macapagal; and (seated) John Mulhall, Trinidad, Lynn Sherman and Pheona Baranda.

ELEVEN-year-old Jason, about to undergo the family's traditional rite of passage into manhood via his bar mitzvah, is shouldering a burden that goes beyond his peers' normal adolescent angst.

He has found out that his father is gay and has a live-in lover. And while the boy may have the strength to take that in stride, he finds himself wrestling with the fear that homosexuality is contagious. Scared that one day he may turn out to be like his old man, he tries to totally tune himself out of the situation.

It doesn't help that the caterers for his bar mitzvah turn out to be a happily committed lesbian couple.

Adding to the pressure is that dad Marvin wants him and his mother, Trina, to accept him and his lover, Whizzer. And that all of them treat each other as one big, happy family.

This is the dilemma presented in New Voice Company's (NVC) production of the Tony award-winning "Falsettos," a two-hour sung-through musical opening this June 28. "Falsettos" is actually the last two-thirds of a trilogy created by William Finn. Finn wrote all the three plays—"In Trousers," "March of the Falsettos" and "Falsettoland"—while James Lapine composed the music for the last two pieces.

NVC associate artistic director Andrew Vergara directs, choreographs and does the musical staging. The musical direction is by Bond Samson.

Maturity

Joel Trinidad ("Proof," "Rent"), who plays the charming if slightly narcissistic gym instructor Whizzer, offers his explanation behind the title. "One of the main themes of the play is maturity. When a boy grows into a man, his voice changes. All the characters in this play start out as selfish. But they eventually mature towards the end. And Jason, the little boy, turns out to be the most mature."

JAKE Macapagal is the coming-out dad and Joel Trinidad is his lover

A 12-year-old boy undergoes a different sort of rite of passage: he finds out his father is gay

Twelve-year-old actor Joshua Ramirez, a seventh-grader at the Ridley International School who auditioned for and won the part, certainly shows signs of that maturity. He remains unfazed about the adult material, perhaps because his parents have given him their blessing. "My parents (support) me in this musical because (performing in one) has always been my dream." While the cast members swear there are no explicit sexual scenes, Ramirez did caution his folks tongue-in-cheek, "Just don't bring the baby."

In one of the more affecting musical pieces, Jason wrestles with his father's homosexuality. Ramirez finds the scene "kinda mean—especially toward the (father character). But in the end, Jason stops being afraid of his father's sexuality."

This journey, from fear to courageous serenity, is another theme of the play. As Trinidad puts it, "Joshua's journey is the journey of coming to terms with who you are. It's about accepting who you are."

That path into self-realization and enlightenment, however, may also cause its pilgrims to bump heads against the closed doors of convention and tradition. The relationship between Marvin and Whizzer creates a rift not only between Marvin and ex-wife Trina, but also between Marvin and his son. Essayed by Jake Macapagal ("Hedwig and the Angry Inch," "Rent"), Marvin persists in believing and insisting that his family can still be one happy harmonious group, even though his new relationship triggers questions and soul searching, especially for his kid.

Long-time NVC resident actress Jenny Jamora, who plays the lesbian caterer Charlotte, says, "Another theme of the play is having the courage to go against the rules set in culture and find out what true love is. Real love may not mean keeping to legalistic rules on what a family should be."

Twist of fate

Ironically, Marvin gets his chance through a painful twist of fate. A crisis compels everyone to put aside their differences, take a good look at each other, and bond together. In the end, this bunch of dysfunctional people does become a family. But it comes at a very high price, especially to Marvin and Whizzer.

Stage actress Lily Chu, who plays Charlotte's physician lover Cordelia, says it is the one message that impresses her the most. "There is a sense of family. A sense of home. When the crisis happens, everyone comes together. Trina (Lynn Sherman, last seen in "The Vagina Monologues") is Marvin's ex-wife; she's supposed to hate Whizzer. But in this crisis, she realizes that she does care for him."

In a poignant scene, Jason reaffirms his maturity and his love for his new family by holding what could have been a teenager's frivolous bar mitzvah in a place that could have meant alienation and death—in the process transforming the place to one of redemption and life.

The journey toward maturity and acceptance ends and begins through Jason's perspective. That's why that role of a 12-year-old boy groping for answers among a bunch of high-strung, passionate, intensely conflicted adults is so important.

Trinidad points out, "Kids give real answers without judging anyone or anything. They understand—they discern, but are not judgmental."

Obviously advocating a spirit of tolerance, acceptance, and diversity, "Falsettos" seeks that same open-mindedness from its audience.

"Falsettos" will open at the Music Museum on June 28 and runs until Aug. 3. Call 896-6695, 896-5497 or 899-0630.

ALMARIO

Lecture on Filipino poetics

DISTINGUISHED poet Virgilio S. Almario (a.k.a. Rio Alma) will deliver a lecture on formalism at the Ateneo de Manila University on June 29.

The lecture, titled "Bagong Pormalismong Filipino," will be held at the Faura Audio-Visual Room from 1-4 p.m. It will be the first of a series of public lectures for the 2002 Rio Alma Poetry Clinic.

The poetry clinic is a nine-month course that includes lectures and workshops conducted by the country's notable poets. It is facilitated by the officers and members of the Linangan sa Imahen, Retorika at Anyo (Lira).

This year's fellows are Jan Mikael de Lara Co, Belmir Legaspi Gonzales, Beverly W. Siy, Rose Margaret A. Galang-Monis, Nestor Lucena, U.Z. Eliserio, Marlowe P. Cruz, Daisyree C. Miranda, Jose Charlymagne N. Collado, Vivian Limpin, Isagani A. Amoncio, Michael P. De Guzman, Erwin C. Lanuza, Donmar M. Acof (Bulacan), Lilia F. Antonio, Anna Trisha Monica Osorio, Ricardo P. Fernando III, Maria Rizza Torno Yap, Kristoffer B. Berse, Faye Johanna Cura (Baguio), Salvador Biglaen, Elyrah Salanga and Lorenza S. Calpotura.

The lecture is sponsored by the Ateneo Institute of Literary Arts and Practices and Ateneo's Filipino Department.

The thunder of Licad

By Pablo Tariman
Contributor

LICAD obliges autograph seekers in Ilocos.

LAST week, Cecile Licad wrapped up three concerts—at the CCP, the residence of German Ambassador Herbert Jess in a program called "Homage to Rizal," and at the Malacañang Ti Amianan (Malacañang of the North) in Barangay Suba in Paoay town, Ilocos Norte. All of them were greeted with unprecedented standing ovations.

But the standing ovation given Licad for "Rach Three" at the CCP was the wildest and the most tumultuous in the history of CCP. Playing Liszt's "St. Francis Walking On Water" for an encore, Licad calmed down the euphoria and moved not a few in the audience to tears. Filmmaker Marilou Diaz-Abaya was able to control her emotions during the first standing ovation but broke down in tears after leaving the CCP Little Theater entrance. "Thank you Cecile for your music," a sobbing Abaya told Licad at the CCP parking lot. San Miguel Master Chorale conductor Jonathan Velasco was not just in tears in the last movement of "Rach Three"—his shoulders were literally shaking in uncontrolled sobbing. Actor Ronnie Lazaro was in cloud 9 in "Shostakovich Fifth," but after "Rach Three," he was reduced to a starstruck fan of Licad. The award-winning actor told the Inquirer: "This Licad experience is my most unforgettable experience at the CCP."

The talk of the town, of course, is the brownout which hit CCP in the latter part of the second movement of Rachmaninoff's "Piano Concerto No. 3." The orchestra missed five pages of orchestral accompaniment, but the soloist didn't stop even if she could hardly decipher the keys in total darkness (the big question lurking in the minds of Licad fans was why it took some time for the emergency lights to come to Licad's and orchestra's rescue when it should have been working right after a brownout).

But if the intention was to paralyze the performance, it was the wrong ploy because the brownout multiplied Licad fans and made her the sensation that she is.

"She simply mystified her audience during the brownout," said German Ambassador Herbert Jess, who referred to Licad and Jose Rizal as the country's luminous stars. Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho sang "O sole mio" for Licad in a post-concert reception after her recital in the residence of the German ambassador. Actor Johnny Delgado and director Laurice Guillen were in complete awe of the pianist. They said they'd watch her again tonight at the CCP for her "Twelve Etudes" and "Schubert Impromptus."

On the other hand, the newly born San Miguel Philharmonic emerged as a first-rate orchestra under the triumphant debut of conductor Rodel Colmenar. "If he continues to conduct the way he does now," said Licad, "he will be the conductor to reckon with."

After the "Homage to Rizal" recital on June 19, Licad flew to Laoag and proceeded to Barangay Suba in Paoay town to perform at the Malacañang Ti Amianan, which has excellent acoustics. It became a touching reunion with the former First Lady Imelda Marcos, who said that conductor Eugene Ormandy told her, "There are five great pianists in the world today and Cecile Licad is one of them."

But if she was hit by brownout in the middle of "Rach Three" at the CCP, it was altogether another experience in Paoay. Her Chopin "Twelve Etudes Op. 25" was accompanied by heavy rains and in Liszt's "Orage" (from "The Year of Pilgrimage"), the piece was accompanied by intermittent lightning and thunder, which shook the concert venue. The lightning was a perfect setting for "Mephisto Waltz," which drew gasps admiration from Ilocanos. Playing Buencamino's "Mayon Concerto" for an encore, Licad further wowed the audience; she was rewarded with another standing ovation.

Licad continues her national tour this week with a performance at the Marco Polo Hotel on June 26, and Antipolo City on June 30.

If there is someone more excited about Licad's Davao engagement, it is no other than former Miss Universe Margie Moran-Floirendo, who has harnessed Bahaghari Productions (the producer of "Bagong Buwan") for the this rare music event in the area. "When we made the first announcement of Licad's engagement in Davao, we were swamped with reservations for the best seats in the house. Normally, people would decide till the last minute to buy tickets for a performance. But then Licad's visit, I think, will help develop a growing market for classical music in the region."

Here and there

The 4th Romantic Concerto Journey of pianists Ingrid Sala Santamaria begins on Friday, June 28 at the Makati Medical Center's Ledesma Hall, with a performance of Beethoven's "Emperor Concerto" and "Saint-Saens' Piano Concerto No. 2." On June 29, they perform at the Angelo King Center for Performing Arts at the De La Salle Santiago Zobel School, and on July 2 at the Museuo La Salle in Dasmariñas, Cavite. The other dates: July 3—Taal Vista Lodge, Tagaytay City; July 4—Alitagtag College, Alitaglag, Batangas, July 6-7 at Villa Escudero in Tiaong, Quezon; July 19—Banaue Hotel in Banaue, Baguio City; July 21 at St. Louie University; July 23, Agoo Basilica in Agoo, La Union; and July 26, Dagupan City in Lyceum Northwestern University. Watch for other dates next week.

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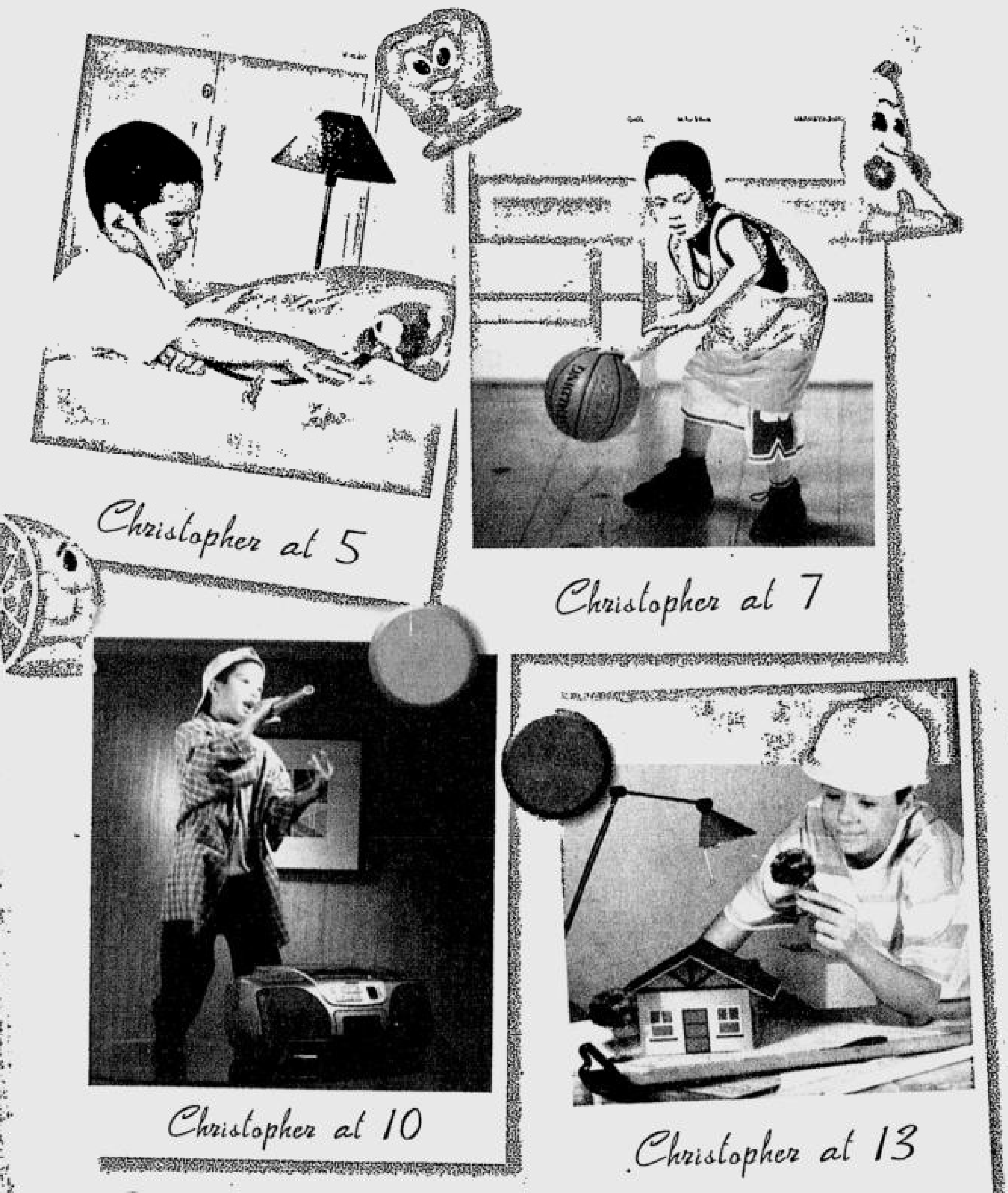

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Impressive Chinese brush paintings and relaxing Tagaytay luncheon

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AMBASSADOR Enrique and Letty Syquia, Melly and Louie Ablaza

ULRIKE Da Silva of Portugal, Hasan Sarmad of Pakistan and Narda Camacho

CHILEAN Ambassador Carmen Lynam and Israeli Ambassador Irit Ben Abba

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

SYLVIA Tay Van Remoortele, Singapore-born wife of Belgian Ambassador **Arnold Remoortele**, is one accomplished lady. Not only is she a professional diver; she is also an accomplished painter of Chinese brush paintings as well. Her one-woman exhibit at Oakwood Premier had members of the diplomatic corps and friends ooohing and aahhing at the works done on rice paper. Even **Arturo Luz** was impressed.

The guest of honor, Chinese Ambassador **Wang Chungui**, explained the intricacies of Chinese painting with some prompting from **Wang Soxiu**. Despite the opening of the French Film Festival the same evening, the exhibit was SRO. Among the guests were Israeli Ambassador **Irit Ben Abba**, Egyptian Ambassador and Mme. **Mohamed Rezk**, Italian Ambassador **Umberto** and **Clara Colesanti**, German Ambassador **Herbert** and **Micheline Jess**, French Ambassador **Renee Veyret**, Pakistan Ambassador and Mme. **Hasan Sarmad**, Ambassador to Malta **Enrique** and **Letty Syquia,** who bought one of the still lifes, as did **Paz Yuchengco**. Among the culturati were **Josie Lichauco, Tessie Luz, Mita** and **Tony Rufino, Evie Costa** as well as **Gemma Cruz Araneta**, and **Pearl Doromal.**

* * *

Gracious hosts **Melly** and **Louie Ablaza** hosted a Sunday luncheon at their Tagaytay residence overlooking the ridge that talented son, **Junjun,** has done up in an eclectic mix of ethnic styles. The luncheon was in honor of their *balae*, birthday celebrators Ambassador Enrique and Letty Syquia. The birthday cake, baked by the Ablaza's daughter **Czarina** (married to Dr. **Jose Syquia**), was such a work of art truly no one wanted to cut into it.

Lunch out in the open terrace had everyone keeping their fingers crossed it wouldn't rain. **Ben Farrales** spoke excitedly about his upcoming 50th anniversary fashion at Shangri-La, Makati on July 1; he promised to make it unforgettable. Chilean Ambassador **Carmen Lynam** came with her mom, Doña **Nora Lopez de Narvaez,** while Indian Ambassador **Navreka Sharma** came with daughter **Jayacri Sharma**. **Ethel Timbol** was also there. It was a good time to relax for Mexican Ambassador **Enrique** and **Mariana Hubbard**, Italian Ambassador **Umberto** and **Clara Colesanti**, Russian Ambassador **Anatoli** and **Valentina Khmelnitzki**, German Ambassador **Herbert** and **Micheline Jess**. Also among the guests were Philippine Export Zone Authority Director **Lilia De Lima**, **Evie Costa**, **Chit Gohu**, Justice and Ms **Bernardo Pardo**, and **Danny Dolor**.

RUSSIAN Ambassador Anatoli Khmelnitzki, Nigerian Ambassador Raymund Inije, Cuban Ambassador Domingo Alonso Medina

GERMAN Ambassador Herbert Jess

ITALIAN Ambassador Umberto Colesanti

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

JOSIE Lichauco and Paz Yuchengco

CLARA Colesanti of Italy, Micheline Jess of Germany

Books on Estrada trial

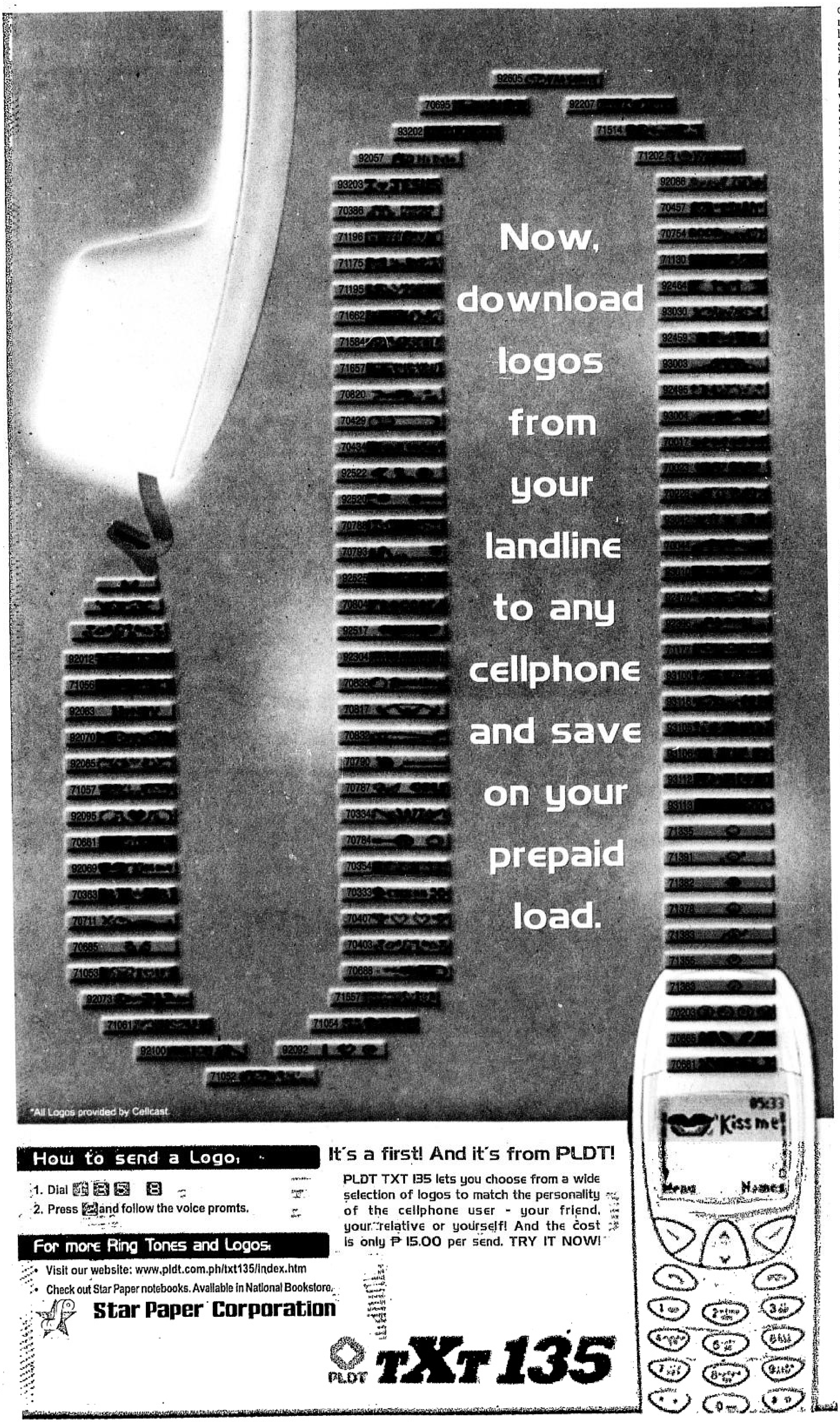
"THE IMPEACHMENT of a President" and its sequel, "Mills of Justice Grind On," will be signed by authors Oscar and Alice Villadolid on June 29, 3-6 p.m., at the Filipino Bookstore, Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong.

Just off the press, "Mills of Justice Grind On" contains on-scene accounts of intense battles between government prosecutors and lawyers of the deposed President Joseph Erap Estrada at the Sandigan and the Supreme Court. The reportage was done by Alice Colet Villadolid, who also reported on legal challenges to martial law for the New York Times, Newsweek International and Asiaweek.

"Mills of Justice Grind On" also carries a foreword by Bishop Socrates Villegas, D.D., a folio of Edsa Dos paintings by Nemiranda and the Supreme Court decision on the constitutionality of the Plunder Law.

The background story on how the popular Estrada got exposed and impeached, and his dramatic trial at the Senate that ended in the Edsa Dos revolt, is told by Alice Villadolid in "The Impeachment of a President," with commentary and analysis by Oscar S. Villadolid.

Retired Ambassador Oscar Villadolid is former editor in chief of the Philippines Herald, which was shut down by martial law, and former senior vice president of San Miguel Corporation, now a columnist for BusinessWorld.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